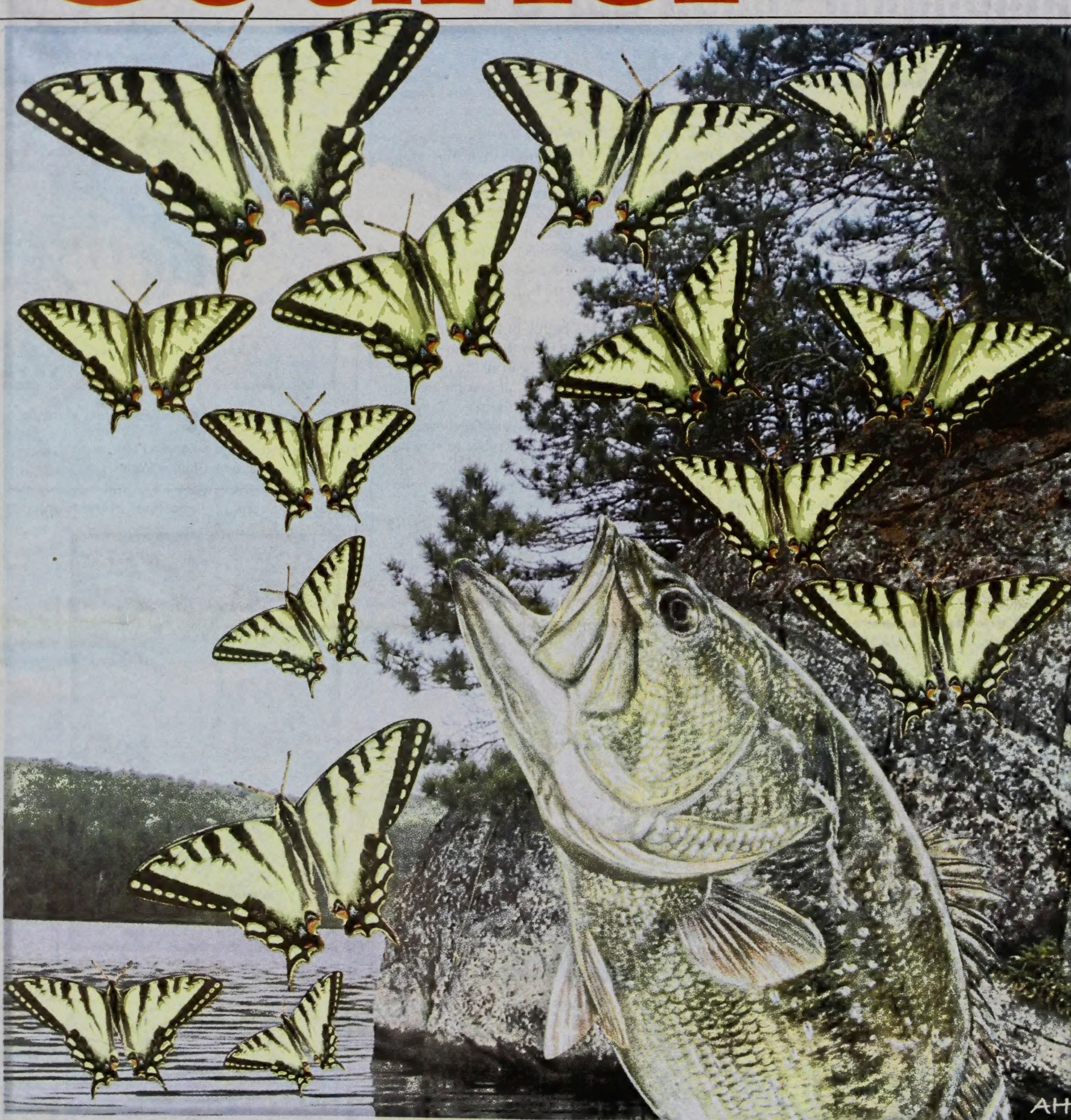


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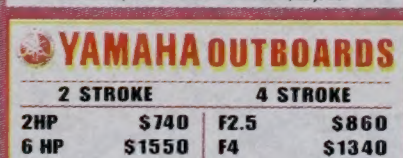
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CourierCarrier

By: Jan Simon

Algonquin Lunch Bar & Shell Gas Station

Mabel and Gary Parks have owned and operated the Algonquin Lunch Bar and Shell Gas Station for the past four years but the business was originally built in the 1950's by the Whitmores. Mabel hails from Madawaska from a family of sixteen, while husband Gary is from Whitney.

The couple offer year round service to locals and passerby in their restaurant and gas bar/convenience store.

Located right on Highway 60 in the Town of Whitney, they have a prime location to attract folks from neighbouring towns as well as visitors to Algonquin Park. Park employees and visitors also support their business.

The Algonquin Lunch Bar is a regular stopping off spot for convoys of Army soldiers travelling between the Meaford and Petawawa bases. Other regular customers include snowmobilers and cross country skiers in the winter and four wheelers and dirt bikers in the spring and sum-

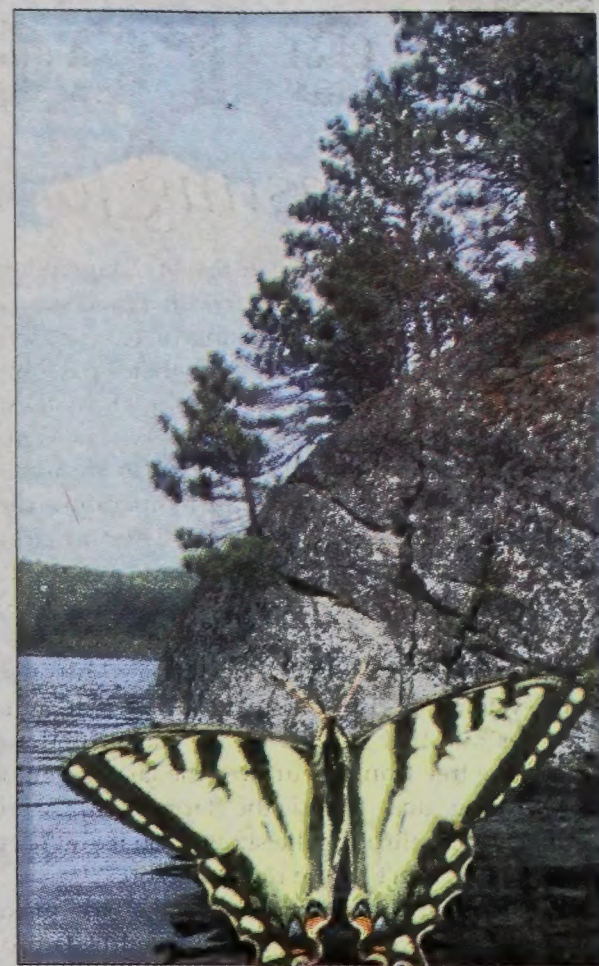
mer. Occasionally they get some horse back riders as well as long haul truckers who also stop at the Algonquin. The Parks have geared up to fill the appetite of all their customers and everyone knows that anywhere a trucker stops for his meals is a good place to eat.

The specialty of the house is the Roast Beef Dinner. The dining room seats approximately 52 people. The service is friendly and the food excellent.

Mabel Parks speaks highly of her excellent staff. She draws employees from the Madawaska and Whitney area. Due to the seasonality of this type of business it does not pay staff to come from any further afield. However in the past they have had students from Trenton work for the summer who had the availability of a place to stay close by.

Drop by for gas and a nice meal and say hello to Mabel and Gary.

Jan Simon



Cover Art

Photos and design by Andrea Hillo
Bass Illustration by Charles Weiss

Out and about...

colours of the Highlands

photos by Andrea Hillo



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The reel thing

Let the casting for largemouth begin

Largemouth bass are creatures of adaptability. They live in any lake and river with a food source and shelter. During the opening of bass season, they are never far from shore or their spawning beds. They do swim further away from these areas during summer, when the water warms up. Usually, the areas they can be found in are warm water bays. A slight change in temperature can affect whether bass feed aggressively or lay close to stumps, docks, or the cover of a heavy weed-line. Bass prefer water temperatures of 79 to 81 degrees Fahrenheit (26 to 27 degrees Celsius).

I remember a few seasons ago, during a low pressure system (meaning rainy weather) that same summer rain had led me to take shelter under a large pine tree leaning out over the lake. I continued fishing and found the largemouth were actively biting through the shower. So if you need a fishing fix, don't let the rain stop you.

In most lakes, with plenty of weeds, bass make their home in weed beds. Dense weed beds provide bass with protection from bright sunlight, an acceptable water temperature, and easy access to food.

In some lakes, where pike or musky patrol the outside edges of the weed line, most bass are forced out of the deeper weeds. When fishing this area, use lures that don't have exposed hooks, like a half ounce jig with a weed guard on the hook. Adding a small worm of a dark colour can help attract bass. Fish the tops and shoreline edges of the weeds. In areas like this, try casting weedless spoons like the old reliable "Johnson Silver Minnow" or the new "Weedwing" spoon from Panther Martin.

Use a wide variety of lures for your best chances of catching bass during the summer. Shallow or deep-diving crankbaits produce exciting strikes at the edge of the weeds. Experiment with various retrieval speeds. On hot days, a quick retrieve drives the bass crazy. Spinnerbaits get the attention of largemouth along the same areas. Change your lure colour until you find one that strikes their fancy. Early and late in the day, buzzbaits or surface lures (like the jitterbug) cast over shallow, weedy flats will also get strikes.

Largemouths are tough to catch on sunny days in clear water; you'll probably need to use light spinning tackle to get them to bite. In these conditions, thin, yet strong, braided or fused line and small plastic worms, grubs, or jigs can get the bass to start biting. Use baitcasting tackle spooled with 12

to 20 pound line for fishing around heavy weed growth.

Beginning of bass season is probably the best time of the year to fish for bass. That's because, fish metabolism is now fairly high, but the lake's natural food production is not yet in high gear. The bass are hungry and have little to eat. The weed growth in the lake is almost mature, providing you with areas to find the bass. As the summer continues, bass have more natural food and are less likely to eat an unnaturally presented lure. As the summer progresses, the challenge is how to present your lure in these areas and connect with bass. A good idea is to experiment during changes in weather patterns. You don't have to worry about whether they are biting when it's raining, that's one of their peak feeding periods. Good luck! Hope you don't mind fishing in the rain.

Largemouth in Ontario average 1 to 4 pounds (.45 to 1.8 kg) with a few fish in the 10 pounds/9.9 kg class caught every year.

Chuck Weiss



This month's Courier cover includes this illustration by Charles Weiss. Charles has created drawings and paintings for Sporting Classics, Outdoor Canada, Canadian Sportfishing, BC Outdoors and Ontario Out of Doors. When asked what motivates him to paint gamefish, Charles explains 'I guess you could say it's the eternal power of nature.'

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jam:

The jam making process allows water to evaporate from the fruit. This water loss and the addition of the sugar makes the pectin (added or already in the fruit) form a barrier trapping water within the cells, making the characteristic jelly or gel like substance we call jam.



Photos by Andrea Hill

Brenda Reise wanted to expand the business and challenge herself to try something new and so last year the Reises purchased an old house on Sherbourne Street in Bancroft and the renovations began.

The Stone Kitchen

There's a lovely little shop just waiting for you to discover on Sherbourne Street in Bancroft, it came into being just one short year ago but the delightful jams that are produced there have been around for twenty years. Many locals still don't know what a wonderful assortment of delicious jams and jellies are produced in Bancroft by local families.

Hubers Home Made Jam started its humble beginnings in the Boulter area by a resourceful Mennonite family. Maureen Huber used to make fresh baked bread and jam selling them on the main street of Bancroft when she was approached by the IGA in town and asked if she would supply them with a small amount to sell in their store. Out of this first order began a business that expanded to Father, Samuel, Mother, Maureen and their six children all involved in some way in the production and marketing of Maureen's jams

& jellies.

Seeing the potential for other families to benefit from this opportunity of owning their own business, Samuel & Maureen Huber started other families who were struggling to make a living in the area. They were all supplied with the knowledge of buying, marketing and especially cooking these delicious jams from Maureen's own recipes.

That was sixteen years ago for Don & Brenda Reise, they outfitted their log home with a stockroom and separate kitchen for jam making. When Don could no longer make jam because of a back problem they hired a neighbour to help. Kerry Bedard and Brenda made jam together for 12 years from the Reise home in the Boulter/Fort Stewart area. Don & Brenda were unique in the fact that they didn't have to market their product

continued on page 5

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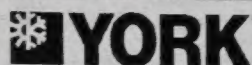
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continued from page 4

but took over the distributor that the Huber's had used. Greg Devlin has worked alongside the Reises's distributing their jams in various parts of Ontario and is a real asset to the company. There are just two families left making Huber's Home Made Jam out of the six original and they are both in the Bancroft area.

Business has grown every year and Brenda has added her own specialty line of jams to the business. They are named The Stone Kitchen line because the jam kitchen in her home was actually built from stone gathered from the property when her & Don built their house. This line of jam & condiments are more upscale for the specialty food market and are an elegant assortment of tastes resulting from the combining of fruits into spreads with mouthwatering names such as Cranberry & Orange Marmalade, Peach & Almond Spread, Pineapple & Lemon Spread, Lime & Ginger Marmalade and many more for you to discover.

The Stone Kitchen also has a couple of delicious novelty jams that you will love to try or give as gifts, how about "Middle Age Spread" or "Toe Jam", how would you like to see that on your breakfast table?

The Reises like to use local produce if they can and are fortunate to know a lady who loves to pick wild fruit. She has no trouble at all picking 1000 pounds of wild blackberries from the back hills of Boulter to supply the demand at The Stone Kitchen. Apples are also gathered in the fall for the delicate taste of Hubers Wild Crab Apple Jelly. The Stone Kitchen also carries four varieties of No Sugar Added Jam that appeals to those on a sugar restricted diet. They have Raspberry, Strawberry, Peach and Blueberry all made without sugar.

Brenda wanted to expand the business and challenge herself to try something new and so last year the Reises purchased an old house on Sherbourne Street in Bancroft and the renovations began. Together they have turned this once tired old house into a quaint little shop when you can buy giftware, gourmet food products, kitchenware, garden things and of course the 35 varieties of delicious Hubers and The Stone Kitchen jams. Brenda will also create a lovely gift basket from items you choose in the store, add some jam and her special touch and you have a lovely crafted gift to give.

Don & Brenda had an addition added to the back of the store for their jam making facility and when you visit you may be lucky enough to watch as Kerry and their newest employee Anna Thibadeau cook up the delectable jams that Hubers and The Stone Kitchen are known for.



Don & Brenda had an addition added to the back of the store for their jam making facility and when you visit you may be lucky enough to watch as Kerry Bedford and their newest employee Anna Thibadeau cook up the delectable jams that Hubers and The Stone Kitchen are known for.

Although the jams and jellies made in the kitchen are cooked in small batches to ensure quality and everything is done by hand, these two lovely gals can produce 600 to 800 jars a day as they happily work together joking and singing the day away producing their daily assignment of the various flavours, pouring and labelling one jar at a time. Relocating the business to Bancroft has been a good move and although only a year old the new location has proved to be a delight to all those who enter and find out that in Bancroft there is a wonderful locally made product available to them.

jam:

Jelly is more popular among kids, while preserves are favored by adults. In fact, the average child will eat 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by high school graduation.

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Electricity: power means money

by Peter R. Snell

Last winter, I got lazy and neglected to use my wood stove as much as I usually do. That means that, in the depths of winter, my house was being heated solely by electricity.

I paid, big time.

When my spring quarterly bill arrived asking me for over \$1,000, followed a month later by one asking for about \$400, I first kicked myself soundly for my environmental stupidity. You talk a good line, I lectured myself, but you slacked off when it meant you had to put out a little effort. Okay, so I have been (self) chastised. Now I want to know why electricity in Ontario is so expensive, why there are cheesy additions on my bill (like the debt-reduction thing) to make it look like I pay less than I do for my electricity. At the end of 2004, McGuinty's government passed legislation to restructure the electricity system. The new system will open it to private ownership. A look around the world will tell even the casual observer that this is a move that will certainly thrill greedy capitalists out for a fast buck at the expense of pensioners and the like.

Our electricity system can be hard to understand, and much of the material pumped out by the government serves to further obfuscate the situation. Here's my attempt to try to make things clearer.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates both the natural gas and the electricity industries, ostensibly in the interests of Ontario citizens. It gets its authority from a couple of 1998 provincial Acts relating to energy, an assortment of provincial statutes, and the Ontario Energy Board Consumer Protection and Governance Act, 2003. That last Act made the board a self-financing Crown corporation without share capital.

The board sets transmission and distribution rates. It also oversees prices for electricity. Presently, consumers pay a "capped" price for their electricity, but that is more and more being dictated by international prices. The board maintains that consumers paid less for their electricity than it cost to produce it. McGuinty's Liberals are now setting us up to remove those caps and to open the door for privatization. But I'm ahead of myself.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is a not-for-profit

agency set up by the Ontario government. They actually manage the system. They make sure (as best they can) that supply equals demand, and see to it that the electricity gets to where it's needed. The Independent Market Operator (IMO), also known as the Independent Electricity Market Operator, manages the wholesale electricity market and balances buyers and sellers.

As if that were not enough, the Ontario Liberals have created yet another entity, the Ontario Power Authority, mostly to buy power for the province. With electricity shortfalls predicted in 2007, about the time McGuinty will be thinking of elections, this authority will attempt to avoid blackouts and keep us all supplied. At what cost is anybody's guess. The Ontario Power Authority will take on some of the duties of the IMO. OK. It's already easy to see how this maze of regulators can make it hard to understand how things operate in Ontario. We haven't even begun to talk of private interests or of the role of NAFTA or of pressures from south of the border. Let's look at some recent electricity history in Ontario to get a better perspective on current events.

Citing Ontario Hydro's, big debt, in the late 1990s, the Ontario Conservatives decided to privatize aspects of the electricity industry. Keep in mind that their rationale (the big debt) has been contested by many credible sources. In general, the argument is that Ontario Hydro's debt was not really the fearsome thing it was made out to be; it was no bigger than any other organization (public or private) of comparable size and it was spending money not to pass on a debt to future generations, but to pass on a reasonably cheap and efficient system in a good state of repair. They also made some bad mistakes regarding nuclear energy, something that the present

regime seems to be repeating.

Nevertheless, in 1999, Ontario Hydro's generation assets were sold to Ontario Hydro Generation, a crown-owned corporation. In a competitive market, OHG will have to compete with private companies, and perhaps even sell electricity outside of the country at the expense of Ontario citizens. Transmission and distribution assets were sold to Hydro One. Administration of the grid was taken over by IMO (see above).

While the companies mentioned above got the goodies, they did not inherit much of the debt or liabilities. The Ontario Electricity Financial

Corporation (OEFEC) took over the debt part; that's what we, the public were left holding after the money mongers were finished. That's that extra bit we pay on our bills every month.

The electricity system built by Ontario citizens since early in the 20th century now is open to the vicissitudes of the competitive market. As mentioned above,

there are numerous reports of similar exercises around the world that have resulted in increased costs and lowered efficiency. Meanwhile, Ontario Hydro Generation has presently got three nuclear stations (one at Darlington and two at Pickering) along with six fossil-fuelled stations, 35 hydroelectric stations and 29 "green power stations" (29 hydroelectric and three wind). They lease the Bruce Power station to a private company.

Ontario was set up and open for competition in the electricity market in May, 2002. The IMO is constantly making deals (prices fluctuate about every five minutes) with private corporations for power. Almost as soon as the market opened, prices for our electricity started to rise and the citizens of Ontario became restless. The government then set a "cap" on what we would pay for our electricity;

meanwhile they continued to fork out the market price. It's a save now pay later plan, but it had political advantages, as we (the taxpayers) tended to forget that our public electricity assets are being sold down the river. Now we'll be paying.

At present, we get our power from a variety of sources. About 37 per cent is from nuclear, 29 from coal and oil, 26 from hydro, seven from natural gas and one from wind, solar and biomass. The Ontario Liberals have committed to cutting out coal-fired stations by 2007 (hurrah!). Now the decision has to be made as to what we want to switch to.

If the Pickering plant is anything to go by, we're in trouble. Unit one is about 20 per cent over budget, and excesses over original forecasts are ridiculously high. Whether it's Ontario Hydro or Ontario Hydro Generation, we're still racking up public costs. However, we no longer have any assurance at this point that we can control our electric destiny in Ontario.

The new agreements McGuinty's system is now opening up could mean that free trade agreements force us to bid against U.S. consumers for our own power. In addition, we could end up selling our power to the U.S., even though we have a power shortage at home; that's the way free trade agreements tend to work. These are not wild assessments by whacky lefties, either. The latter caution comes from ex-CEO of Ontario Hydro, Tom Campbell.

To add insult to injury, the Ontario government is keeping much of its dealings regarding NAFTA discussions to itself. Despite a clear indication that Ontario residents do not want an integrated Ontario-U.S. electricity market, the McGuinty government pushes on. How far they have gone it is hard to tell; information is hard to find. McGuinty's Liberals are continuing policies that are strangely similar to the old Harris regime. A footnote to all this: there's a new documentary out that I hear is required viewing. It's called, Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room. It's all about the disgusting fraud that Enron executives perpetrated, to the public's loss and to their financial gain. It includes sections of Enron folk chortling over their manipulation of blackouts and brownouts in California.

A portent of things to come?

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Jazz Series

painting by Brian Atyeo photo Jerry Grozelle

Editorial

by Andrea Hillo

*Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.*

Martin Luther King

Heartbeat of the Community

*W*elcome summertime!

For those of you picking up the Highlands Courier for the first time, you'll soon realize that we are the 'eyes and ears' of the local folk.

While our paper strives to be the heartbeat of the community, we hopefully also serve as an informative and educational resource for those people who may not live here, but who come to enjoy the beauty of the Highlands.

As an independently owned and operated publication, we have the freedom to print issues that you, the reader, tell us are important. Whether they are political or of human interest in nature, our writers are proud to provide relevant and thought-provoking articles.

Advertising is brought to you from a service-oriented perspective, with a focus on buying locally to support our economy.

Community events and happenings are thoroughly covered, while on the next page you may find an in-depth piece on a current environmental struggle in our area.

The Highlands Courier is here to report the 'real' news, the news which is happening in our 'neck of the woods', the pulse which brings us together, and keeps us in touch and intact as a community.

Thank you for keeping the "heartbeat" strong!

Andrea

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

Smart Ideas

Cooperative Babysitting

*Most of us are familiar with the African proverb;
it takes a village to raise a child. But how many of
us with children create community?*

I have a three and a half year old son named Seamus. As a self employed person I have a flexible schedule. However, all work can't be done when he is sleeping, especially now that naps have almost ceased to exist.

When Seamus was two I began working more. He was going to a babysitter one day a week. However, I needed more time to establish my business and yet I had very limited resources. A childhood friend of mine, Katya McQueen returned to the county when she was pregnant, just like me. Our children were 10 weeks apart and spent time together since birth. She approached me suggesting we do a childcare swap. Essentially, I look after her daughter one day and she looks after my son another day. No money involved. I knew her and her family for 17 years. She was a good mom and we shared similar parenting values. My only trepidation was whether it would remain consistent and would be something I could rely on, especially if it was critical to me keeping food on the table.

That was two years ago. Since then her sister moved back home with her son and she too became involved in this exchange. Recently another friend and I began switching childcare so I could attend a much desired fitness class. One night at a pot-luck dinner a single mom, new to the community with three children approached me saying she would like to become involved in this babysitting cooperative. At this point I realized my friends and I had formed a babysitting cooperative.

All parents need a break whether it's for work, a doctor's appointment or just some much needed time-off.

'Babysitting co-ops benefit parents because you have a whole selection of caregivers. It's guilt-free since you're not always asking the same person, like a grandparent to watch your child. It's very beneficial if you don't have support,' says Brenda Duncan, parent education coordinator for the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton County.

Numerous models of cooperative babysitting are available, ranging from the highly structured to a relaxed model. Some cooperatives form a committee where one parent is a coordinator another is a secretary. These co-ops often hold regular meetings and insist that parents have a police check. A number of cooperatives use a poker chip system. When parents first come together they each get a certain number of chips that are worth an hour of childcare. The chips help keep track of usage which is beneficial if you don't have a scheduled day.

The cooperative I have formed follows a more relaxed model. This has worked for us because we are in a rural community and most of us have known each other for a very long time. However, communication between parents is still crucial.

'Communication is very important so that if problems arise you have a way to deal with them,' says Duncan.

Mary-Lou Mills a family health nurse for the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit agrees, 'Parents need to come together and set up guidelines and rules around discipline, having children in cars, agreement on pick-up and drop off times and what happens when children are sick.' 'Babysitting cooperatives create a web of communication. We start to share information readily, like on how to potty train. It becomes a social aspect for the parents as well as the children,' says Katya, the original mom I began childcare swapping with.

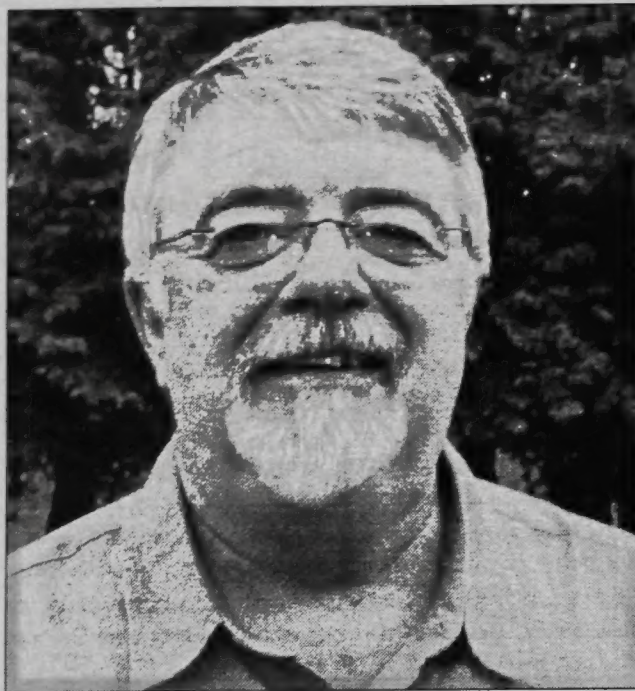
'It brings people together building support and friendship around parenting,' says Duncan.

For children it's great for their socialization. It exposes them to different children and different adults. In my case it's a consistent scheduled play date at a parent's home who has a child at a similar development stage. Thus, they have the toys and the knowledge. My son looks forward to the days he spends with his friends whether it is in my home or someone else's.

If you decide forming a babysitting cooperative is something for you I suggest starting small. It's easier to develop then it is to juggle numerous schedules and needs from the beginning. You also need to be consistent yet flexible. In the last two years my childcare days have switched a couple of times but only after 6 months. People's lives change and grow as do their needs.

I asked Katya how originally she had gotten the idea of swapping childcare. She said that she grew up in an environment where raising children was shared with four families, each taking turns. 'We share similar values. It's about establishing community for us and our children,' says Katya.

Erin Lynch



Brian Atyeo is a firm believer that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The artist from West Guilford says he believes those who view his work, or any artwork, will have his or her own interpretation.

"I use abstract thinking," he said. "So the paintings themselves don't become mere documentation. When I go to paint a marsh in Algonquin Park or the Madawaska or something like that, what's the point of sitting there painting every blade of grass. There were painters back in the 15th century doing that better than I can do it today. So, why not record your own impression of what's going on there and make that the core of the painting. That appeals to me. I'm more interested in my reaction to being on a marsh in Haliburton than I am to simply documenting the geography."

Leaving something to the imagination of the viewer, he says, is the result of his way of thinking and the way he represents a scene on canvas. "You would be allowed a lot of scope to involve your own perceptual abilities," he said.

He admits there are people who don't want to have to think about what they are viewing. "But they are entitled to that," he said.

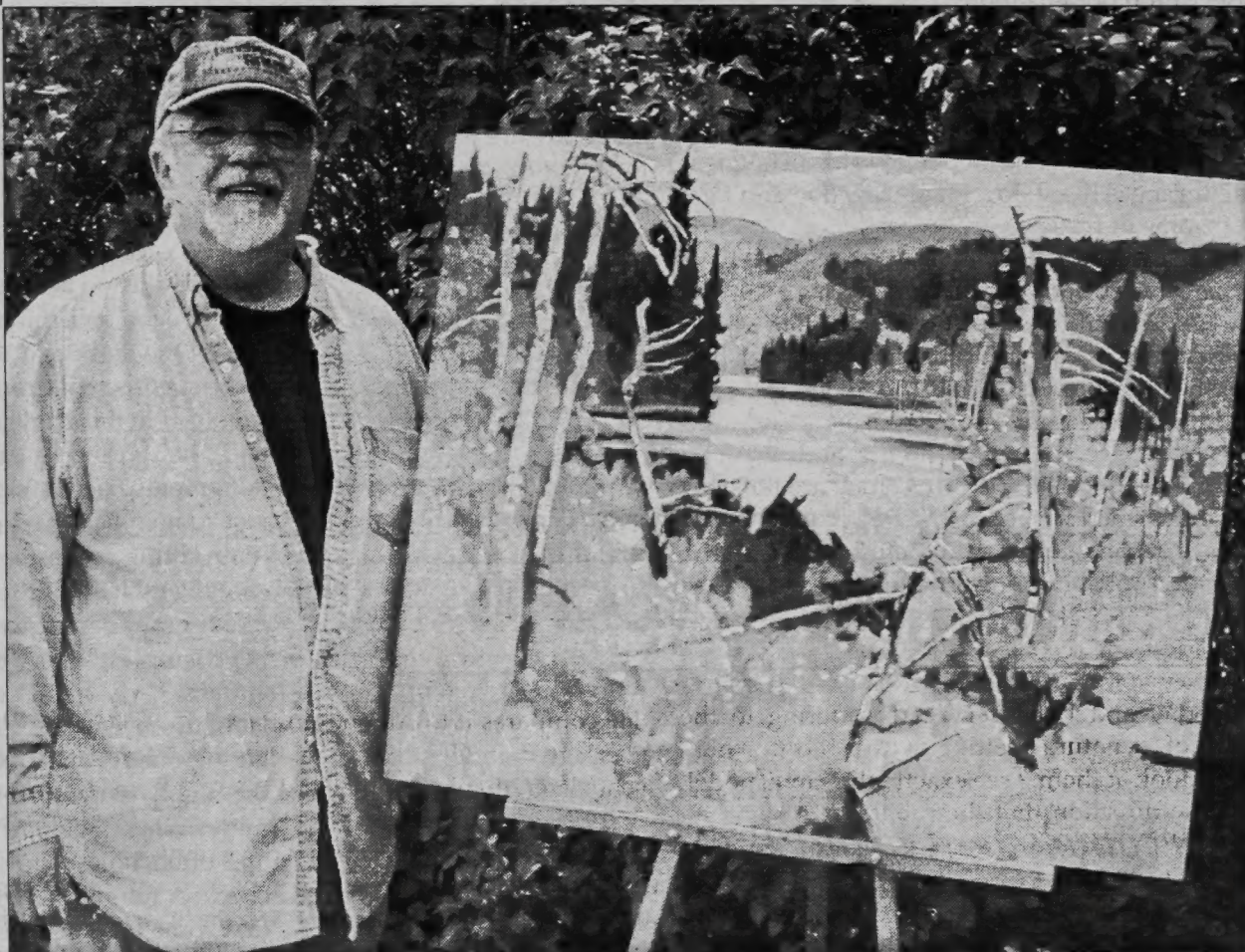
"I think part of an artist's job is educating people - not to the artist's way of thinking, necessarily - but challenging the way the viewers may have thought all their life." He says it is exciting for him to give viewers the opportunity to see things from a different perspective.

"This certainly is a good time in history to be an artist," he said. "There have been times when it wasn't very good to be an artist. Education has never been more accessible than it is with today's technology."

When Atyeo goes afield to paint, he will often paint the basics and fill in the details when he gets back to his studio, which is a converted garage

Naturally talented

by Jerry Grozelle



West Guilford artist Brian Atyeo believes that hunters and anglers are leaders in conservation efforts and he is a big supporter of those efforts by donating some of his work to help raise money for the cause. He is seen here with a painting titled "Wildcat Lake" which he has donated as the feature artwork for the Haliburton Lake Trout Project Dinner and auction to be held at the Pinestone Resort on July 8.

next to his home. Instead of using charcoal pencil to do a rough drawing on the canvas, he uses paint to do the initial sketch.

Atyedo's impression of a scene is almost always slightly different from what is actually there. He moves elements around to create a more pleasing

arrangement. "Nature is not in the painting business, it's in the inspiration business," he said. "A big part of the artist's job is to organize that reaction to 'wow, would I ever like to paint that.' That in itself, won't make a good painting. What you

continued on page 9



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continued from page 8

have to do is sit down and use design elements and design principles that are centuries old to organize the scene. That's the difficult part of painting. I have done a lot of painting outdoors and only about twice have I come upon a scene where you could paint it verbatim. That's very rare and both times were in the arctic."

Atyeo has been a supporter of Ducks Unlimited Canada for 16 or 17 years. He first approached the Sudbury chapter of Ducks Unlimited Canada after reading about what the organization does to preserve waterfowl habitat. He offered to paint an original for the Sudbury committee's fundraising dinner/auction and his contributions expanded from there to Peterborough, Brighton, Trenton and other committees. Including the Haliburton Lake Trout Project's fundraising dinner, which has been the beneficiary of Atyeo's donations of original paintings for several years, he donates an average of six to eight original paintings a year to conservation organizations.

Atyeo was conducting a workshop in Winnipeg not long after the new Ducks Unlimited Canada head office was opened nearby at Oak Hammock Marsh. He took the opportunity to tour the facility. "It really got me excited," he said. "The great thing for me is that I do a lot of traveling and I get to see some of these projects."

Conservation is critically important to Atyeo, especially with increased urban sprawl, and he looks to a specific group as the guardian of our resources. "If it wasn't for the hunters and fishermen, the environment would be in one sad state right now. These guys are like farmers and agriculture. They're the ones who are the true stewards of the land. And, of course, they are the ones who are listened to the least."

He says art and conservation efforts have a long history – probably an unintentional history initially – going back to early painters, whose work depicted jungle scenes with leopards and parrots and other flora and fauna. "I look at those paintings today and I see very early offering to the public of a natural setting with wildlife in it. When I look at them, I see exactly the same model, the same direction that the modern day wildlife painter uses. What this generated was an interest in the outdoors and the whole natural setting in art."

Atyeo credits artist James Audubon and others with expanding the interest in the outdoors with their work in documenting wildlife in a natural setting. He said artist Ogden Pliessner, an ardent hunter and fisherman, was a pioneer in conservation through his sporting art and adds, "Carl Rungius left us with a wonderful legacy in his big game paintings."

Modern day wildlife artists such as Robert Bateman, Bob Kuhn, and others may have drawn some influence from these wildlife art pioneers.

Atyeo said the local area has some "heavyweight conservationists" such as Larry Hewitt, David

'Art and conservation efforts have a long history – probably an unintentional history initially - going back to early painters, whose work depicted jungle scenes with leopards and parrots and other flora and fauna'

Flowers and the Little Family, all of whom, by the way, are avid outdoors people – hunters and anglers. He says he has seen many changes in the six years he has lived in Haliburton County and the efforts of today's conservationists will pay huge dividends in the future. "Six years from now, Haliburton won't know what hit it," he predicts. "When they bring [highway] 407 across to 35, Minden and Haliburton will see a huge influx of people." He cites the construction of the big new food store in Haliburton and the expansion of grocery stores in Minden as a sign of things to come. He also noted that the number of cars on the road at 5 or 5:30 a.m. is continuing to increase. "Those people aren't driving to Minden at five in the morning," he said. "Change is good, but it has to be managed." He is happy in the knowledge that there are people in this county who have the foresight to prepare for the future.

"I think the conservation efforts that are in place now are absolutely critical to saving what there is," he said. "That's why I'm keen on supporting the work a lot of these people are doing. They do good things and as long as I keep seeing that, I'll continue to help as much as I can."

Atyeo says the Haliburton Forest and wildlife Reserve is "a tremendous gift" and the Frost Centre land is a very important asset. With regard to the Frost Centre, he said, "they may not know what to do with it right now – but I hope it isn't sold off by the government – and that's got to be tempting – it's such a tremendous tax base just sitting there. It's a big block of land and 100 or 200 years from now a lot of people will be happy if it didn't get broken up."

He compares it to Algonquin Park. "In its day, it was a tremendous thing to set aside. A hundred years later, thank God they did. You can't imagine central Ontario without Algonquin Park. One of the great pluses for Haliburton County is that they have some of those large tracts of land around here and then there are these privately held tracts too. There are some pretty large landholdings here, by some of the old established families."

Atyeo works almost exclusively in acrylic, but he often includes other media, with acrylic as the base. "I did watercolour for years, but I don't do that any more," he said.

He produces an average of 120 paintings a year. He says he will work on a series of paintings for three or four months at a time. "I'll do landscapes for a few months and then move to something else," he said. Another subject that continues to get his attention is what he calls his "Jazz Series."

Those paintings are inspired by his love of jazz. Most are collages or abstract images on the jazz theme.

"Jazz is not representational," he explains. "I use exaggeration and distortion to echo what's in the playing of the music." That series of paintings has been in the works for eight or nine years and comprises more than 100 paintings to date. "It's been quite a progression," he said. "I just started to doodle on some jazz stuff one day."

Atyeo was born in Toronto and his family moved to Peterborough when he was 12. When he finished school, he moved back to Toronto for a while, working as a street artist – doing cityscapes and other illustrations for printers. From there, he went to Calgary for a couple of years and then on to Edmonton for three years. During that time architectural art was his mainstay. In 1980, he moved back to Peterborough. After another five years, he put the architectural work behind him and focused on landscapes, with a bit of figure painting for a change of pace.

He is represented by a number of galleries across the country, including the Wallace Galleries in Calgary, the Harbour Gallery in Mississauga, The Mountain Galleries in Whistler, Jasper Park Lodge and the Banff Springs Hotel in BC and more recently, the Agnes Bugera Gallery in Edmonton. Locally, his work can be found in Haliburton's Ethel Curry Gallery.

Atyeo's abstract paintings, he says, are often a reaction to modern complexities. "It could be a reaction to the effects of pesticides on an orchard, for example," he explained. The artist's interpretation is in the abstract form because the affect on the subject is unknown. "It's the exact opposite of representative painting," he said. "It's the enigmatic, esoteric side of modern living, outside of boundaries."

Atyeo would like to see more of his abstract or Jazz Series of paintings offered at fundraising auctions as opposed to the traditional landscapes. He believes there would be enough people at such events who appreciate the complexities of such work to bring a good return for the fundraisers.

Along with being a very accomplished artist, Atyeo is also a lifelong student of the arts. He collects books on artists and art and is a wealth of information on the subject of art history.

Brian Atyeo's painting titled Wildcat Lake, which he says he painted from the memory of a fishing trip to the lake, is the feature artwork at the Haliburton Lake Trout Project dinner/auction, which will be held at the Pinestone Resort on July 8.

by Jerry Grozelle

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In the spotlight
by Rory McRandall

Blackfly Summer Theatre

Blackfly Summer Theatre Company burst on the Apsley scene in 2004 with a rousing production of Michael Freyn's *Noises Off*, co-directed by Pippa Strachan and her partner Dan Boileau, leaving only one burning question in the mind's of local theatre patrons: why Blackfly?

"I have no idea why we called it that," Pippa says. What Pippa does have some very good ideas about is why she started Blackfly, why she is involved in theatre and why she has chosen the Bancroft area to live, work and pursue her artistic passions in.

Pippa was born and grew up for the first several years of her life on the west coast of England before moving to Canada and settling, eventually, in Oakville where she spent the rest of her growing years. Pippa and her siblings and friends used to engage in very theatrical play and put on performances for their parents, even before she got involved more elaborate productions.

No sooner had she set foot on Oakville soil than she had set foot on the stage with the Oakville Players. Her early theatre career was as the child in whatever production might call for one: a role in a wheelchair with no lines; sitting on the back end of a chicken-wire goose

In high school she was president of the drama club, though this enterprise came to a controversial end.

"I resigned for political reasons," Pippa says with her characteristic mischievous grin, before laughing and adding, "I haven't changed!"

She recalls her favourite role as being that of Martha in the Bancroft Theatre Guild's production of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*, which she characterizes as totally exhausting and totally all consuming but also really exhilarating.

"I think that I prefer drama because I think comedy is harder," says Pippa, "but when people laugh it's quite amazing."

Local audiences will recall seeing Pippa in productions of the Theatre Guild, Theatrics Summer

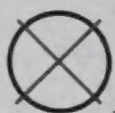
continued on page 11



Photo by Rory McRandall

"It really has a lovely energy, this area," Pippa says with evident fondness. "Some people say its the rocks, some people say its the height. There are opportunities for magic and mystique in this area. I feel it every morning when I wake up. It's beautiful here. It's rather a special area. It's like one big, huge sacred space to me."

Thank You



The Haliburton County Marksmen Club extends a special thank you to the sponsors who donated items or cash for the student youth programs at the club's shooting range, in particular the recent safety instruction and shooting program for students from Derek Little's class from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

That event was a tremendous success thanks, in part, to the involvement of local businesses including Outdoors Plus in Haliburton, Minden Live Bait and Tackle and Dollo's IGA in Minden. Thanks also to the HCMC members who assisted with the safety instruction, supervision on the firing lines and preparation of the lunch.

The Haliburton County Marksmen Club's shooting schedule includes rifle, shotgun and handgun events to suit almost every type of shooting enthusiast. The club welcomes applications for membership. Enquiries or application forms can be obtained from Walter Griffin at 705-286-2900 or by e-mail at: griffinwalter@hotmail.com

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continued from page 10

Theatre and November Theatre as well as her own new venture with Blackfly. In addition to on stage roles with each of these groups, Pippa has also worked back stage and in the production of various shows as well. On stage she has also worked with Cate Meder and Joe Shulman in both The Sound of Music and Cabaret, and was charmed by both of them individually and even more so by the teamwork they brought to those productions.

She is drawn to small towns and has lived in many over the years, though there is one drawback to smaller communities: the lack of diversity in the local cuisine. Pippa and Dan overcome this obstacle by doing a lot of ethnic cooking of their own. Together they experiment with a lot of Asian cuisine.

"Sometimes it works out and sometimes it's an absolute disaster," she laughs.

Coming to Bancroft was both the result of a deliberate search for a place to set down some roots and a bit of a lucky accident. They had decided to move away from the immediate hinterland of the Greater Toronto Area and started to scour the entire country to find their haven. Alberta and Nova Scotia were among the early favourites, they even put in an offer on some property down east, but the deal fell through.

At this point Dan was invited up to Papineau Lake and fell in love with the area. Pippa agreed with him immediately when she came up to see the area. In addition to the wonderful topography, the profusion of lakes, Bancroft also had a thriving arts community which was a strong selling point for Pippa and Dan. They actually toured the area reading posters, a tactic they'd followed in other communities as well. The vibrancy of the local arts scene was the deal maker for them.

"It really has a lovely energy, this area," Pippa says with evident fondness. "Some people say its the rocks, some people say its the height. There are opportunities for magic and mystique in this area. I feel it every morning when I wake up. It's beautiful here. It's rather a special area. It's like one big, huge sacred space to me."

Pippa has put roots down in this community since coming here in 1998 after having been very much a rolling stone most of her life. Part of that might simply be her time of life but a lot of it has to do with the area and the town itself.

"I love this town for the downtown," she says,

and is vehemently opposed to anything that would detract from it.

Though Blackfly Summer Theatre Company is committed to the community of Apsley and happy to be there, the idea for it was born in downtown Bancroft. A group of local actors were sitting around in the York River tavern after a performance talking about summer theatre and the play Noises Off in particular. That play is a particularly difficult show to mount due to the staging requirements.

From that conversation Pippa and Dan nurtured the seed that had been planted. As Bancroft was already the scene of a thriving summer theatre company at the Village Playhouse, they decided to look to outlying communities for possible performance venues. Eventually this search led them to Apsley where they found immediate support in the person of Gary Gerald of the parks & recreation department and the Town of Apsley itself.

"They've been a big part of how it all got started," Pippa recalls. "We're planning on staying put in Apsley for sure."

This summer Blackfly will be producing The Play's The Thing, written in Hungarian by Ferent Molner and translated into English by P.G. Wodehouse. Many of the performers from Blackfly's first season will be back working with Pippa and Dan, along with some newcomers to the Apsley stage who will be familiar to Bancroft audiences.

"We have a great cast," Pippa enthused.

Along with Dan and Pippa, Paul Douglas, Marny MacKay, and Michael Wendt will be returning to Blackfly and will be joined by Tim Franksy and Wendy Travis. It is the way a cast pulls together that she loves about theatre.

"The reason I love theatre is because it puts you with a group of people where, even when it's tense and hard work, 'we're in it together'. It's not like a committee where you break into little bits and pieces. If you're not a company and you're not working together, you're not going to be able to pull it off. You have to rely so much on the people who are on stage with you and I love that feeling."

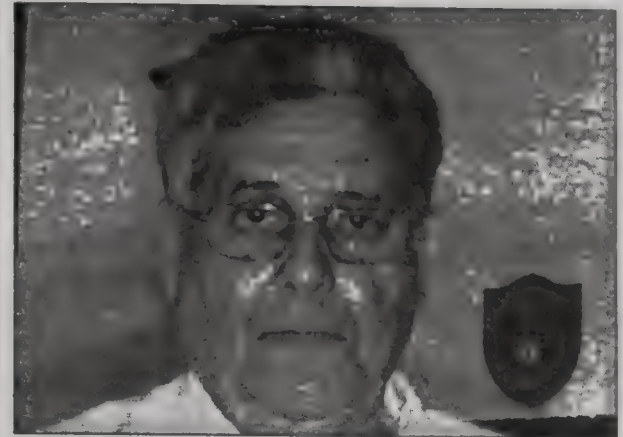
The feeling is contagious. The audience catches it every time. You can catch it this summer at the Apsley arena from July 27th through August 6th.

Rory McRandall

Bancroft had a thriving arts community which was a strong selling point for Pippa and Dan.

They actually toured the area reading posters, a tactic they'd followed in other communities as well.

The vibrancy of the local arts scene was the deal maker for them.



Ramon The electronics wizard

Like the "Maytag Man" Ramon Gonsalves of Barry's Bay waits for the service call from SEARS CANADA to fulfil their warranty work. Ramon is the owner and operator of Servi-Tech, your home electronics service centre located in Barry's Bay.

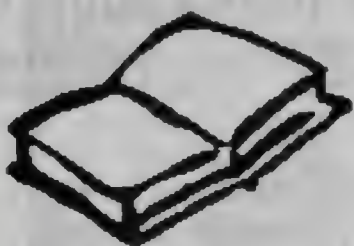
Ramon came to Canada from Chili in 1972 and located his family in Burlington where he worked in home electronic servicing. During this time he also worked a second job in the evenings. The owner of this company asked Ramon to work for him full time. The advantage was no more night work and more time with his family. He continued this work for eight years until the company was sold to Americans. At this point Ramon moved to Ottawa where he had a very good job in industrial electronics. At this time he and the family built a future retirement home on Golden Lake. Unfortunately this new job required many trips, some long in nature, outside the country. Again family life suffered. Time to make a decision. Go back to Ottawa to work or bite the bullet and start his own business in Barry's Bay. The decision was easy to make but a little scary to execute. Thankfully all went well and Ramon and his family integrated into the life in Barry's Bay.

One day he received a call from Sears Canada and the deal was done. Ramon covers all warranty work for Sears from Barry's Bay to Apsley and also the Denbigh and Eganville areas. This is how we met. My service problem is solved and I have made a new friend. I haven't met such a fine gentleman in a long time.

Ramon's wife shares space in his business location and does sewing and alterations for local folks as well as helping with Servitech's paperwork. They have three grown children. One son just graduated from Queens University who will teach "Transportation Technology" (a new term for auto mechanics), another son who does work for GM and a daughter who is raising her family in Hamilton.

Jan Simon

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Photo by Andrea Hillo

Bill and Sandy Smith's dreams of raising a family and running their own business were recognized in 1977 when they bought Elephant Lake Lodge

Dynamic Duos

Partners in business and life

When it comes to High School Sweethearts, Bill and Sandy Smith are at the top of their class.

The couple who just recently attended their 50th High School Reunion, were one of the few 'couples' in their group of friends that have stayed together both in life and business.

Bill and Sandy are the owners of Elephant Lake Lodge, and though some may think the Smith's have always owned the Lodge, like every story there was the beginning.

I have known the family for over 20 years and grew up and I am still great friends with their

daughter Cindy so it was a pleasure to sit with the crew and get the scoop.

Though they met at a High School in Scarborough, it wasn't until Bill returned from two years in the Navy that they became a couple.

The year was 1959, Sandy tells me she was waiting at a bus stop on her way to work when a car pulled over and asked her if she needed a ride. Well that was Bill and that's where the story began. 6 months later they were married and within the next few years started their family with their first son Mark, then Mike, then Jeff and finally along came Cindy.

Sandy's parents Harry and Grace Slater were one of the original buyers of property on Elephant Lake. As their four children grew up they had decided to divide their property between them all, and that was Bill and Sandy's opportunity to build and fall in love with Elephant Lake.

Across the lake was Elephant Lake Lodge. The Lodge was a popular destination for especially American fishermen at that time. Originally owned by the Schickler family, then passed to the Kennedy's, then to the Watertons, Bill and Sandy really never dreamed they would be the next proprietors. But like destiny in action the Smith's befriended the Watertons, and through this friendship came the eventual purchase of the Lodge and a new future for the family. And what a great future it would be!

Bill's the boss
as long as he does what Sandy wants

The Smith's bought the Lodge in 1977. The basic plan was Sandy would take care of the cooking and Bill the maintenance. The couple worked relentlessly building their business and raising a family.

Their early efforts have paid off. What started as a family business continues as a family business. And as the business grows so does the 'family'. Their four kids have grown, each involved with the Lodge in some way, and just like Bill and Sandy are now raising their children at the Lodge. The Smith's take great pride in their family and business. They thrive on working together as a team and both agree that it has brought them closer together forming an unbreakable bond. Though they haven't agreed on who's the boss, their partnership is fair and they each respect the others responsibilities to run a smooth operation.

In 1989 they opened their restaurant/bar. From this country kitchen comes a homestyle menu always served with a smile.

In 1995 they opened Cedar Meadows Golf Course, which later on became the responsibility of their eldest son Mark and his crew.

Their facilities have hosted many great community events and the entire family have been tremendously involved with local events and fundraisers. You see it's all worked out as planned, thankfully they have the Lodge for I'm told it's the only place that can facilitate everyone in the family for special occasions!

Finally I asked Cindy what the secret to her parents success in business and life is? Her response 'Bill's the boss as long as he does what Sandy wants'.

Happy anniversary Bill and Sandy!

Andrea Hillo



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Every June, July and August, outdoor enthusiasts across Canada help monitor the breeding success of loons while enjoying their favourite lake. These dedicated participants spend a little extra time during their regular lake activities to identify the loons on their lake, record the number of Common Loon pairs, and track the survival of each pair's offspring. This information is then returned to the program and combined with data collected from hundreds of lakes across Canada. Periodically, trends are analyzed to see how loons are fairing regionally and nationally. For example, in 2004 our 20-year report clearly showed that Common Loons in western Canada are more successful at rearing young than loons in central or eastern Canada.

"Anyone who spends time on lakes within the breeding range of the Common Loon can participate in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey," explains project coordinator, Kathy Jones. "All that is required is a bit of time, a pair of binoculars, and interest in loon and lake conservation." If you plan to spend at least one day in each of June, July, and August on a lake in loon country, then you can collect important information on the breeding success of loons through the CLLS. A complete set of instructions and data forms are provided to participants, and data can be returned by mail or entered online.

To participate, surveyors are asked to become members of Bird Studies Canada (BSC), Canada's pre-eminent, not-for-profit bird research and conservation organization. A portion of the \$35 tax-receiptable fee is used to cover core survey costs. For more information, contact Kathy Jones by phone at 1-888-448-2473, by e-mail at aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org, or visit BSC's website at www.bsc-eoc.org and click on national programs.

because Every step counts

The Weekend to End Breast Cancer is simply this - an awesome life changing adventure. During one amazing weekend, September 9-11, 2005, thousands of women and men will unite in Toronto to walk 60 kilometres in a bold display of courage and commitment. (30 km Saturday & 30 km Sunday). It's a weekend of hope, as we honour lives lost, celebrate survivors, and help bring breast cancer care to those who so desperately need it. This extraordinary weekend is about finding the hero in yourself and discovering strength you never knew you had. The money you help raise will benefit Princess Margaret Hospital, a leader in the fight against breast cancer. One in every nine Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Maybe someone in your life has been affected. It could be your mother, sister, daughter, or a friend. The Weekend to End Breast Cancer is your chance to go the distance in the fight against this disease; it's your chance to be a hero for someone you love or someone you may never even meet.

All of the money goes to The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, an international leader in the fight against cancer and the largest institution in Canada devoted to cancer treatment, innovative research, and education programs. Net proceeds will support ground-breaking research, moving us one step closer to a future without breast cancer.

Two local gals are getting ready for the walk by organizing several fund raising event. Betty James and Lisa Reinwald invite everyone to join them in the following events:

Sat July 25th - Used Book Sale - Minden Main Street (Headline Hairstyling parking lot)

Sun July 26th - Rollerskating - Minden Arena - 2-4 pm

Sat July 2nd - Beer Bottle Drive - Haliburton (location not yet secured)

Sun July 3rd - Rollerskating - Minden Arena - 2-4 pm

Sat July 9th - Baseball Tournament - Minden Ball Diamonds

Sun July 10th - Rollerskating - Minden Arena - 2-4 pm

Sat August 20th - Bake Sale - Minden (location not yet secured)

Or if you would like to sponsor the ladies in the walk, please follow the following directions to donate.



Betty James and Lisa Reinwald will participate in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk this fall. The two friends are organizing local fund raising events this summer to help raise money for the cause. See details below to sponsor the girls.

1. Go to www.endcancer.ca
2. Click on Toronto
3. Click on Sponsor A Participant (button near top of page)
4. Fill in First Name, Last Name, Personal ID Number, & Team Name (details below)
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ID Number: 56512-3
Team Name: Coupla Boobs
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Steve's family tree house

by Erin Lynch

The name Steve McQueen often conjures images of the Hollywood legend who played in films like *The Great Escape* and *Papillon*. However, anyone who has ever walked into The Lounge café in Carnarvon has been exposed to the artistic talents of the other Steve McQueen. The stage backdrop of a house, the quirky slanted trim around door frames, the manipulation of dimensions, makes one feel they are in a cartoon.

McQueen who recently turned 40 calls himself an 'art school dropout'. Born and raised in Sault Ste Marie, he moved up to Carnarvon from Toronto four years ago with his wife, Katya who was raised in Haliburton County and their two children, Jacob and Ruby.

McQueen says it was a conscious decision to move north. The family began spending so much time in Carnarvon on weekends that it began getting harder and harder to go back on Sundays. Leaving good paying jobs to start new, they wanted to be close to family and feel the liberty of allowing their children to roam, free from fear.

For 12 years McQueen worked in Toronto for Street City, a community housing development for marginalized people. Many of the residents came from the street, often suffering with mental health issues. A big part of Steve's job was community economic development, giving 'unemployable' people job skills. He led a crew that went into housing units and did renovations. They built composters out of abandoned skids. Another project was Street City Bicycles, a bicycle shop that did repairs. It was here he met his wife, Katya.

'I was working with people with heavy addictions who often hadn't worked in years. It was very



Steve and another family friend made a tree house; the railing along the stairs curving from the natural cedar branches.

challenging,' says McQueen who admits he was burnt out when he left the job.

Although never formally trained as a carpenter, McQueen says he learned things from his dad and grandfather who were also good with their hands. A creative handy man, McQueen has troubles sitting still. Employed full time at William's Landing cottage community on Lake Kashawigamog as the site and facilities manager, McQueen enjoys

doing creative carpentry side jobs.

It's McQueen's craftsmanship that is responsible for the bar upstairs at McKeck's place restaurant in Haliburton. McQueen says he got the big slab of White Pine that makes up the bar from Michael Butz of Windy Ridge Studio. Besides having a jewellery studio and making canoes, Butz has a mill and cuts big slabs of wood because as

continued on page 15

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McQueen says, 'He just likes the way it looks.' McQueen is quick to point out that he is not your run of the mill carpenter and he finds standard renovations boring. He says his favourite work is when he can collaborate with clients, taking in needs and adding unique design elements. 'It's a dynamic process akin to freestyle sculpture. It's in the moment while you're doing it. It's not all drawn out until you put out the clay,' says McQueen.

When his mother-in-law, Maarit came to him with the problem of what to do with the countless jigsaw puzzles the family had been accumulating Steve suggested making a floor out of them. He recounted a job he had done years ago in Toronto in which a man needed a bathroom floor retiled. Steve came up with the idea of encasing marbles and then covering it with an acrylic based poured floor. The job took 15 gallons of marbles which had to be moved by wheelbarrow.

Before they were going to do anything with puzzles on the bathroom floor they needed to move the heavy dark cabinet. Soon Steve had undertaken renovating the entire bathroom. The walls were painted a dark red. He created boxy asymmetrical shelves above the sink he fashioned from a stainless steel bowl. More shelves on the wall were built with a backdrop of bamboo to accommodate for the permanent removal of the cabinet which had been full of homeopathic natural remedies.

McQueen's father-in-law is Naturopathic Doctor, Gordon Smith. Along one wall ran a board with an eclectic assortment of junk McQueen had found in the shed: an old brass head of a cane, a 1950s flashlight, a framed picture of Fergi and some fishing lures. It serves as hooks to hang things from. The bathroom now has a modern Asian mood.

McQueen says his mother-in-law keeps him busy. He recently built a screened in porch off his in-laws home, lined with planter boxes. Then there is the tree house McQueen built for Maarit before the family moved up from Toronto. A beautiful old Red Oak with a diameter of at least four feet came down in a storm. Steve and another family friend made a tree house; the railing along the stairs curving from the natural cedar branches.

'I see aesthetic to begin with and then figure out how to make it work structurally. It's like moving backwards,' says McQueen.

The design process at The Lounge café evolved from black to white. Originally the owner wanted a backdrop of rocks with a waterfall. The idea of the house came from brainstorming. Open Stage is a venue often showcasing folk music. McQueen says that often that music comes from sitting on someone's porch or deck. The stage is just an extension from that tradition.

Steve McQueen is a jack-of-all trades. He can do some plumbing, some electrical and carpentry. But first and foremost he is an artist with a distinct sense of design.



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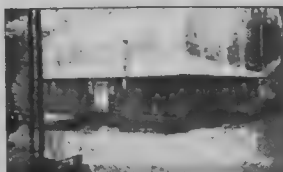
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It happened that fast

A community comes together

by Genevieve Jones

When I am not making my fame and fortune as a staff writer for this paper, I work at the Mac Call Center. I've come to know my coworkers as goofy, energetic and kind people. We don't get much time to chat of course, so these relationships remained superficial, however friendly. Something happened a month ago that changed all that for me.

Tragedy slipped into the office in the form of a phone call. Brandee Best got a call from her babysitter: two-year-old Jayde had a high fever and was having convulsions. Brandee raced out of the office to be with her daughter. She met the ambulance at her home, and they proceeded to the hospital in Peterborough. Within 24hrs they had been airlifted to Toronto Sick Kids Hospital. It happened that fast.

At the office, updates were whispered around cubicle corners: "...any news about Jayde?" We knew it was serious, every parent's worst nightmare. Worried looks, shaking heads, information whispered to each other as it came in. We tried to concentrate on work, answering consumer questions about blenders and coffeemakers. We heard it might be cancer. It was surreal. A couple of days before, the biggest worry in the Best household was paying their bills; now they wondered if their 2yr old daughter would live.

In the office we all felt the same: horror for Brandee, for Jayde, and helplessness. We held back tears as we manned the consumer help lines and switchboard. At home we all hugged our own kids a little harder, held our partners a little closer. Some of us felt guilty about having fun or enjoying anything while little Jayde and her family suffered.

Then Denise McCormick stepped forward and said "Let's raise some money for them." She realized that if this was happening to her, her family would need financial help in a hurry. The bills had to be taken care of while both parents were at the hospital and unable to work. "We can't make Jayde better, but we can take away some worry by raising money for the family."

The brainstorming began. Between client calls about power tools and can openers the ideas flew around the office; a BBQ? a dance? a walk? posters? Ribbons? buttons, jars...where to advertise, maybe hold an auction, where to hold it?...

Denise was the spearhead, and we all did what we could to help. She got permission from the Best family to go ahead, and Lois Jeff, our boss, stood by with business advice and encouragement. We settled on holding a dance, selling teddy bears, and having an auction of donated goods.

"This company has always treated its people like family; issues come up and we're there to help and give whatever support we can", Lois said to me with a shrug, as though this was a matter of course. "That's just what we do here." "Do you know that's rare?" I asked, thinking of the amount of the printing costs and telephone calls, not to mention innumerable staff hours given over to the campaign. She smiled at my teary face then, and said, "Yes."

Updates from Brandee came to the office by phone: MRI results revealed a brain tumor. Little Jayde had surgery, and we all held our breath. The doctors were able to remove most of the tumor, but some remained inoperable. A biopsy confirmed an aggressive and rare form of brain cancer called a High Grade Glioma. Next came the chemo. Later, infections set in, and the chemo was stopped for the time being.

Denise contacted the Canadian Cancer Society and found information on resources available to the family. Then she started making phone calls.

"I just felt an overwhelming need. I woke up thinking about it, I went to sleep thinking about it. There was this huge drive to do more and more." Her vision gave us all something positive to do with our worry, and galvanized a community: The Apsley Legion donated their hall and decorations for the dance.

Charlie-the-DJ-who-works-at-the-Shell-station (no one knows his last name!) volunteered his time and talent for the evening.

Douglas Kincaid gave us the teddy bears at cost. The sale of these bears alone raised over \$1,000.00. Posters were donated by Cajun Printers of Coe Hill. Local Apsley auctioneer Wally James donated his time and talent for the live auction.

The Apsley Post Office voluntarily included our flyers in a maildrop to local residents.

Royal LePage donated the proceeds of their annual plant sale, a whopping 1100.00.

Local businesses gave donations of money and gifts; Bancroft: Canadian Tire, Nan's Bulk and



Jayde's exhausted parents Brandee and Wayde decided they could take a break from the hospital and come home for a night, to come to the benefit dance and relax among friends.



As of this writing, two year old Jayde Best is continuing to fight for her life, with her parents by her side.

Basic Foods, The Market Cafe and Fudge Factory, Rona Cashway, Home Hardware, McCaskies, Top Dollar Bargain Center, Bancroft Times, and Moose FM. Apsley: Hunters Store, the Shell Station, Royal Bank, the Apsley Community Chapel, the LCBO, Watson's Gas Bar, Jacks Lake Landscaping,

continued on page 17

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by Ferenc Molnar Adapted by P.G. Wodehouse

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continued from page 16

North Kawartha Life Long Learning Center, Wellington Street, Guardian Drugstore, and Hairstyling by Pat Quast.

Coe Hill: Elm Street Supplies, Coe Hill Post Office, Red Eagle Tent and Trailer, Coe Hill Gas, and the LCBO.

Glen Alda: Clarkes General Store and Richards Construction

... not to mention Hamilton Beach, Power Maxx, and the Womens Networking Committee.

And there were lots of private donations from all over the Apsley area and beyond: one donation came all the way from Florida.

Michelle Overland, a 19 yr old singer/songwriter from Toronto, heard about Jayde's fight from her aunt Donna Burke who works with us. The situation moved Michelle so deeply that she wrote a song to Jayde and produced a cd to help raise funds. The cd is now available for sale, just contact Michelle at www.michelleoverland.com.

Everyone we asked allowed us to put posters in their storefronts, and many called asking for updates, and how they could help the cause. Denise encouraged them all to come to the dance; she had plenty of help from the staff at work..

At the Mac Call Center we had free reign to work on the campaign: printing 750 flyers, setting up the bank account, making phone calls during work time...

"If it weren't for the folks at work it wouldn't have been as successful", Denise said later. Volunteers helped with brainstorming, made trips to Bancroft to pick up supplies and donations, folded and pinned ribbons, distributed teddy bears and posters to local stores... whatever needed doing.

2 days before the big night some good news came from the hospital: Jayde had fought off the infections and chemo had been resumed. What was left of the tumor was shrinking. Progress! With relief, Brandee and Wayde decided they could take a break from the hospital and come home for a night, to come to the dance and relax among friends. Other family members stayed with Jayde that night.

The Apsley Legion was decorated in jade and yellow. Music and conversation filled the hall as the people of the community gathered. There were prizes to be won, a 50-50 draw, both a silent auction and a live auction (very live!!). Michelle Overland was there, and sang her song for us. We passed the Kleenex around, and laughed through

"And know that what you do in the time of your greatest trial can be your greatest triumph.
For the experience you create is a statement of Who You Are - and Who You Want To Be"

Conversations with God
by Neale Donald Walsch

our tears. And there were Brandee and Wayde, dancing cheek to cheek, exhausted, smiling with gratitude and renewed courage, surrounded by their community. Brandee said later she was too overwhelmed that night to make a thank you speech, but she and Wayde would like to thank everyone involved, from the organizers and volunteers to the participants and everyone who chipped in. "We are so grateful", she said.

The grand total raised as of this writing is \$5,562.00, and the money is still coming in. Denise had never organized a charity fundraiser before, but she may have found her calling. "This felt so right. I've never experienced this kind of emotion. This was my moment to do something unselfish. I am so relieved that (Brandee and Wayde) don't have to worry about anything but their daughter. And the level of caring (in the community) gave me faith in people again."

Now I feel strongly bonded to the people I work with. I know them alot better now, having cried, planned and worked alongside them through this. And I am proud to be part of such a generous and caring community; it gave this little family a bit of shelter from a storm of tragedy. As of this writing, Little Jayde is continuing to fight for her life, with her parents by her side.

Genevieve "The Newbie" Jones

To Contribute Please Call
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Our government believes that medicare is the best kind of health care. We believe it is the best expression of Canadian values. It does an effective job of making sure Ontarians get the quality of care they need.

But we all know it is far from perfect. In many ways it is still a work in progress.

For one thing, Ontario's health care system doesn't really operate as a real system. It is more of a loose collection of uncoordinated services. And we all know that too many patients slip through the cracks. Most urgent of all, one million Ontarians are without a family doctor, one who knows their health history, advocates on their behalf, and coordinates their care. And 142 communities are under serviced - which means they have an inadequate access to basic health care services.

These shortages are the source of one of the greatest health care issues facing so many of Ontario's communities. This is an unacceptable state of affairs - and our government is determined to fix it.

That is why we are moving forward with a plan to build strong community-based health care, because we believe that the very best health care is found close to home.

The cornerstone of our plan is creating front-line primary health care teams, a model we call Family Health Teams.

In April 2005 our government announced the estab-

The Health Care we need in Haliburton Highlands

By Leona Dombrowsky, MPP

lishment of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, one of the first in Ontario. This is a team of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other health professionals who will deliver a full range of health care services to people 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We all know that people don't get conveniently sick between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Far too many people end up in the emergency room because their local clinic closes in the evenings.

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team will arrange their work schedules so that there are after-hours and weekend coverage for each other's patients. The Family Health Team will provide patient-centered care. It will emphasize health promotion, illness prevention and early detection/diagnosis and will provide information to patients so that they can make informed decisions about self care.

The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team will provide a wide range of care, including cardiology, pediatric services, physiotherapy and mental health care. They will also provide patients with expanded

access to care through a telephone health advisory service and extended hours of practice.

The Family Health Team concept is very attractive to many doctors and other health care professionals because it allows them to share their workload, have greater flexibility and balance their work and home lives. More and more family doctors and other professionals are seizing on the opportunity to practice in teams.

Because Ontarians deserve the best possible health care, we are investing \$600 million over the next four years to create 150 Family Health Teams to bring comprehensive front-line primary care to 2.5 million Ontarians.

Our government has a plan, and we are moving forward to give Ontarians access to the care they need, when they need it, where they need it.

Family Health Teams are the kind of solution Ontarians are asking us to deliver. Today, millions of Ontarians are one step closer to having the health care they need, right in the communities where they live. Dr. Geoff Holdway of Hamilton's Rosedale Medical Group has said it best:

"The era of the family doctor doing all things is gone. We now have teams. Our patients benefit, we give a better service. This is a revolution - on with the revolution."

Leona Dombrowsky is the MPP for Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington



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Denise Doubt

An asset to the Woodview Community

by Marvel Henning

Denise Doubt was born and raised in Lakefield and attended public and high schools there. Even then she was a leader, being an officer in school cadets. She is the daughter of Reg Doubt who was a prospector most of his life, discovering uranium in the Bancroft area. In his life time he formed seven different mining companies.

Unfortunately when the uranium market crashed, so did his assets, including a prestigious house on Eels' Creek at the "Devil's Throat". The Doubt family lived in Reydon Manor, the former Samuel Strickland home in Lakefield. Dee said that people thought they were rich because they lived in such a big house, but says she remembers eating a lot of porridge in lean times.

Her mother worked at various jobs, often more than one at a time, such as accountant at Anderson's Funeral Parlour, Tedford's Funeral Parlour, just to keep food on the table between mining peaks. Her father, Reg, drove the first daily bus for the Ferguson Bus Lines from Peterborough to Apsley and Bancroft.

After high school Dee trained as a nurse at Kingston General Hospital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the graduation of her class. She married Bob Edwards and they raised six children - four boys and two girls. While living near Burleigh she answered an ad in the newspaper in 1967 for a nurse for the gold mining town of Discovery, North West Territories. While at a Christmas party at her sister's she received a four page telegram accepting her for the position. Bob was to be in charge of the cooking. Instructions included advising her to bring personal clothing, bedding, pots and pans etc., and to be there by January 7th, 1968.



Denise Doubt is a member of the County City Disaster Relief Fund, distributing clothing, necessities, temporary accommodation to burned out families. She still serves on many committees, including the Medical Centre Board raising funds for an expanding Medical Centre in Apsley and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She is noted for her outspoken manner and the fact that she gets things accomplished that she sets out to do.

They closed their house, packed up and flew to Edmonton in -45 degree temperatures that held there for the next six weeks. It was still -45 degrees F. when she flew out with a patient on January 29th. From Edmonton they had a brief landing at Hay Lake, and then on to Yellowknife. They were packed in a Beaver plane; Bob had the co-pilot's seat and she and the six children ranging from 6 to 13 years of age sat on the floor among the luggage - no seat belts!

Discovery had about 250 families, seventy of them miners. The mine had operated for 18 years. The town boasted a library, theatre, one-room school, curling rink, bunk houses and a commissary. Every home was serviced by "pipe boxes" - wooden boxes like culverts, above ground, that held hydro, heat, sewage, water pipes and cables so that they didn't freeze. There were three ministers who visited, Anglican, United Church and a Roman Catholic priest, Father Duchesnois. The Father's great uncle had been the first priest in N.W.T.

Dee's house was about ten steps from the end of the runway, and had one of the only two phones with a direct line out to Yellowknife Medical Centre. A doctor flew in once a month and really serious cases needing surgery or whatever were flown to Edmonton. Otherwise the nurse served all medical duties.

After only 18 months the mine shut down - no more commercial grade ore, and Bob and Dee were the last people to leave, packing out books to Yellowknife, and remaining food stuff.

Back in Ontario, in the Burleigh area Dee served as school trustee in 1971, and was the first female chair of that board in 1974. She was Deputy-Reeve of Burleigh-Anstruther Township (now part of North Kawartha) in 1978 was one of the first females to attend County Council.

Dee opened a wing of her home in 1985 to house "Petroglyph House", a combination tea room and gift store, emphasizing the petroglyphs etc. Due to family problems she closed in 1988, but continues to live there, near the Woodview Library.

She is a member of the County City Disaster Relief Fund, distributing clothing, necessities, temporary accommodation to burned out families. She still serves on many committees, including the Medical Centre Board raising funds for an expanding Medical Centre in Apsley and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. Dee is noted for her outspoken manner and the fact that she gets things accomplished that she sets out to do. If she cannot answer your question about any of the events going on, she will make it a point to obtain the answer and let you know. Dee follows through on her promises, and is indeed as asset to the Woodview Community.

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The Cameleon's Cove open stage in Bancroft is run by Abe Drennan (top left). Along with the help and participation of several local talents, the evening is sure to temp your taste buds with music, art and of course great food.



Photos by Andrea Hillo

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New restaurant opens in Paudash

Delicious new menu is Eat Smart Certified

The Paudash Lake Motel and Restaurant opened recently under new management and with this change in ownership the menu has changed as well.

Everything is baked or made on the premises and the menu is Eat Smart Certified. This certification means it meets the Canadian Diabetes, Canadian Cancer Society and Life Works Society standards.

They also offer lactose free, sugar free and wheat free foods which would include - you guessed it folks - their yummy desserts.

Diane King who many of us might know from the area has over 40 years experience and as chef she makes it a point to adapt the menu to the season. She also tries to use as much local produce as possible and is planning a herb garden which will include edible flowers.

Most items including their home-made burgers, chicken and specialty steaks are charbroiled, again keeping the healthy cooking philosophy a top priority.

Salmon, shrimp, scallops and fish are available on the seafood menu and the soups are all homemade.

The cream on top of it all is that Dee (Diane) is also a pastry chef, her desserts are made from scratch and or course absolutely Dee-licious!

Spacious and bright, The Paudash Lake Restaurant is open seven days a week and is already serving groups as well as individuals with catering services and a liquor licence in the works.

The restaurant is located on Highway 28 south at the intersection of Highway 118 right in Paudash. It is completely wheelchair accessible with ramped entries and washrooms to meet special needs.

Something sure is cooking in Paudash so do your appetite a favour and join them for a entre. If you clip the coupon next to this article, they will serve you one of Dee's Dee-licious desserts for no extra charge!

Andrea Hillo

GET A FREE dessert

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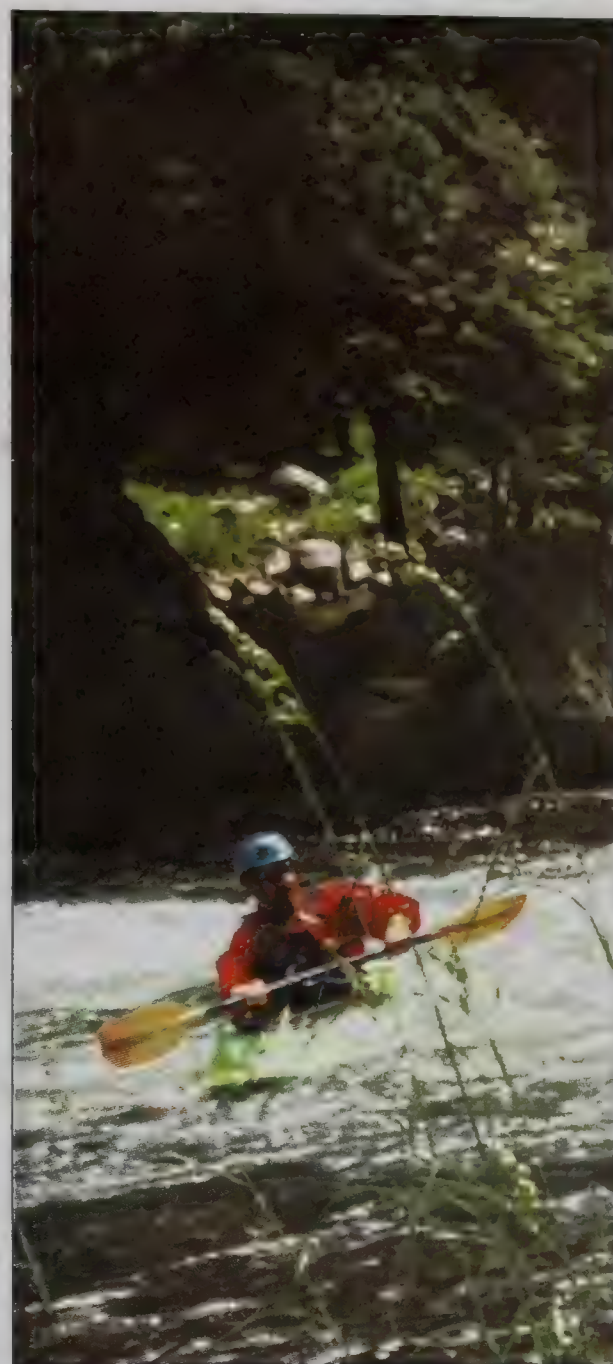




Wild ride

Greg Shantz from the Halls Lake area spent some time June 9 at the Minden Wild Water Preserve, between Horseshoe and Minden lakes, in preparation for the July 2nd Gull River Festival. The Festival will feature races, boat and equipment demonstrations, clinics and seminars conducted by members of the Ontario paddling community. Music, light-hearted contests and a bass fishing tournament (for kayaks only) are planned. This is a fundraising event with proceeds going toward construction of a new white water facility in southern Ontario. For more information, contact Gary George at 705-488-1621 or by e-mail at ggeorge@nexicom.net.

photos by Jerry Grozelle



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Photo & Outline by Jerry Gozelle

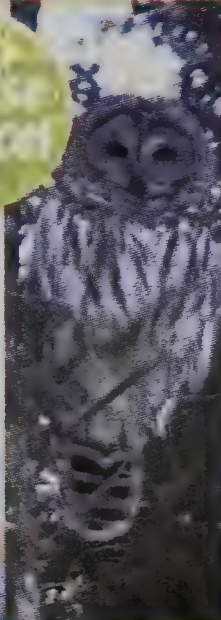
The number of spectators may have been lower than previous years because of the heat and an early afternoon downpour, but the competition at the Minden Timbersport Festival on June 11 was as fierce as ever. When the last echoes of the hot chainsaw competitions had subsided and the wood chips had settled, the top female and male awards for the day were presented. Margaret Engasser was the top Timber Jill and Dave Jewitt took home the top Timber Jack honours. Both winners are New York State residents. Charles Dupuis (above) put his hot saw class chainsaw to work. The first slab had barely hit the ground and he was half way through the log for his second cut. A total of 52 competitors vied for top honours in 16 events.

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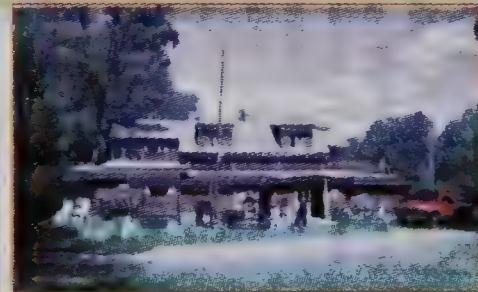
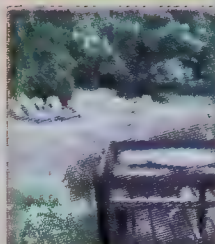
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Sweet Life

Main Building - Main Floor

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Sleeps up to 4 people

Summer Magic

Main Building - 2nd Floor

- 3 bedroom, kitchen, Two-3 piece bathrooms, 2 large decks.

Sleeps up to 6 people



Summer Dreams

1 bedroom & loft, living room with fireplace, kitchen, 3 piece bathroom, sun room, sun-deck.

Sleeps up to 4 people



Moorings

2 bedroom, living room, fireplace, kitchen, 3 piece bathroom, screened indoor room, sun-deck.

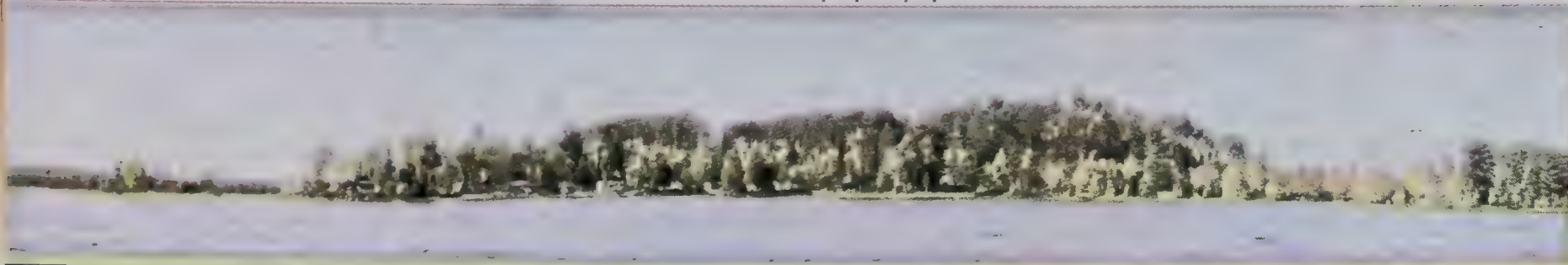
Sleeps up to 5 people



Morning Song

3 bedroom, large stone fireplace, kitchen, 3 piece bathroom, screened/sunroom, sun-deck.

Sleeps up to 6 people





Wayne Buell Dock builder extraordinaire

Wayne Buell and his wife Louise have lived and worked in the Bancroft area for the past four years. The Buells own and operate Edgewater Enterprises.

Wayne was in marine construction for 20 years operating as a deep sea diver. He has worked on oil rigs worldwide and has even worked with the famous Red Adair on one such site.

Louise looks after the office and is very knowledgeable on their product. Together as a couple they are able to get all the work completed within a small window of opportunity.

Wayne explains that window of opportunity for "in water work" is July 15th to September 30th each year. (This includes crib removal work etc.). Edgewater works with the MOE to ensure that all work is with their guide lines for the protection of their customer. No permits are required for pipe docks or floating docks.

Wayne's product is all Canadian made and his lumber and hardware sources are local to support his fellow Bancroft merchants. For aluminum & steel waterfront docks and decks contact Wayne and Louise.

Jan Simon



Photo by Jan Simon

Branch 624 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Wilberforce participated in a parade to honour the Year of The Veteran hosted by the Bancroft Legion. Both the Legion Executive and the Ladies Auxiliary will attend with colour parties representing both. The day was perfect, albeit hot and muggy, for this parade. As time goes by and more of our veterans are lost to us, the importance of honouring those remaining becomes even more important. Branch 624 held a remarkable VE Day celebration at the cenotaph in Wilberforce on May 8th and are now happy to participate in the Bancroft venture as Bancroft did for us in May. May we ever be proud of those who gave their all for country and sovereign.

Those present in the picture representing the Br. 624 Legion Membership

L-R: back row: Gil Jessup, Al Hall, David Hall, Len Crawford, Dave Burton and Bruce Rennie
front row: Jermel Cohen, Cindy Hall, Bonnie Jessup.

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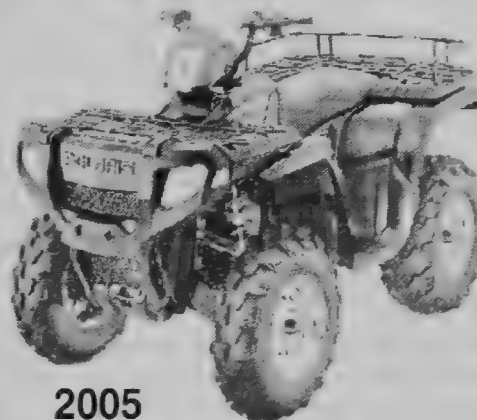
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Barry's Bay

Welcome to the Highlands Courier family

Football junkies are shaking their way through withdrawal from their beloved game. Hoops addicts are hanging on for dear life, as the NBA season comes to a close. Their hasn't been a meaningful NHL game played in over a year, as the enthusiasts who bleed the blue and white of the Leafs are reduced to cheering on the local beer-league squad.

Fear not sports fans, there is a game to fill the void. The Blue Jays, yes the TORONTO BLUE JAYS are in contention once again!!

I'll be the first to admit I'm a fair-weather baseball fan (no pun intended as we slog through this cold, wet spring), but the Jays have me intrigued. It's been roughly a dozen years or so since they had a sniff of the playoffs but they're playing well enough again to make me think they've got a shot.

Their pitching staff is markedly improved over any rotation we've seen in the last decade or so. Roy Halladay is a stud, Chacin and Towers are young up-and-comers, and even Ted Lilly has stopped his Joey McLaughlin imitation long enough to contribute. David Bush has ended his quest for 20 losses, having been sent down to the minors, hopefully forever. The bullpen is young and tenacious, with Miguel Batista leading the way in the closers role.

They're a big bopper short in the hitting department, but have a number of scrappy guys who play hard and make the most of their ability. Reed Johnson, Shea Hillenbrand, Eric Hinske and the ageless Gregg Zaun fall into this category. Alex Rios is a potential all-star once he realizes he's not Verne Troyer and starts hitting some dingers. If Vernon Wells tears himself away from the buffet lines long enough to get in the batting cage and find his stroke, the lineup becomes a pretty good one. A bona-fide power hitter and RBI man would be a nice addition though. JP Ricciardi has been released from the fiscal restraints of previous years, so he can go shopping if he likes.

On the bench, John Gibbons is pushing all the right buttons, and the smug, bird-like Ricciardi seems to be letting him run the show. The club is youthful, aggressive, enthusiastic and worth watching for the first time in years. Barring a major injury to Halladay it looks like they can compete with anyone.

All that is the good news. The bad news is that they're still in the same division as the Yanks, Red Sox and Orioles. That is some tough sledding considering they might be the 3 best teams in the American League (I'm sorry, I still don't take the ChiSox seriously).

Also hurting them is the unbalanced schedule, a gross oversight that the league needs to correct sooner rather than later. As an example of this injustice, the Jays and Twins are both fighting it out for the wild-card spot right now. Toronto has to play the Yanks, Red Sox, Orioles and Devil Rays 18 or 19 times each because they're in the same division.

By the same token the Twinkies get creampuffs like Kansas City, Cleveland and Detroit 18 times. The White Sox are the only other good team in the division. If they were battling strictly within their own division, fine, but they're competing for the same



Illustration by Don Spencer

The Sibling Sports Scrawl

A lighter look at a serious business
by the Brothers Greer

spot with very different schedules.

This is simply unfair.

I myself will ride out this hot streak for as long as it may continue.

The Jays are coming off a sweep of the World Champion Red Sox, who they handled with relative ease. I'm firmly on the bandwagon right now, but that could change in a hurry. Should the club spiral into a 10-game losing streak I'll be the first guy switching over to the endless Friends and Seinfeld re-runs. Hey I warned you I was a fair-weather fan. LG

This just in.....

Shaq who? - So, Canadians can only play hockey eh? Last I checked we had a six foot three lightning fast ball of hair ripping up the entire NBA. Any doubts that Steve Nash is worthy of MVP honours can be shoved aside after his recent playoff performance where he single handedly lead the Suns

to a birth in the third round. If James Naismith could have hung on for another 66 years he'd be grinning ear to ear while watching Mr. Nash finally bring the NBA back to its original home. Oh sure he's not the best looking Canadian but this isn't a beauty pageant folks.

Knighted! - For those who still care about hockey, the Memorial Cup must have been on your radar screen. An epic battle was set forth featuring the host London Knights versus Sidney Crosby. The Oceanic featured as many productive line combinations as Jim Abbott has arms. Evidently London was successful in stifling the heir apparent; effectively shutting down the entire Rimouski squad. Here's to hoping Crosby can overcome this loss, carrying on, saving the NHL and their recent shenanigans (then again the same was expected of Alexander Daigle).....no jinx intended!

They're back! - You didn't really think the Yankees would stink it up the entire year did you? Reliable sources have informed us of a large shipment containing: massive amounts of A5-35 and Viagra arriving at Yankee stadium just as our last article hit stands. I knew we had a huge following but apparently our column has reached the Yankee clubhouse in time for some much needed inspiration.

Ever watch paint dry? - You guessed it, this blurb is about soccer. Two words.....Malcolm Glazer! Mr. Glazer, I'm not your PR representative nor am I a gazillionaire; this said, at least pretend to be interested in the well being of Man-U fans and supporters around the globe. To some \$\$\$ mean everything, in this particular case I wouldn't want to be standing in Mr. Glazer's alligator skin shoes money and all, you don't mess with soccer fans this I know.

Great big goalies, little wee legs - The Toronto Rock have done it again, after a Leaf-like drought they have brought home their fifth title in seven years (yes I was joking about the Leafs thing). Obviously lacrosse isn't exactly like hockey, but when there are as many similarities between the two sports, this could act as a template for success couldn't it? To all the suits at MLSE this is how you build a winner! I still think the goalies look funny though. The other football - Countdown to fantasy football has begun, 99 days until the much anticipated September 8th kickoff (but who's counting?). Some tips from a last place finisher in 2004-2005. One ~ Kellen Winslow is out for the year, rumour has it the Browns will be introducing a NEW "No Motorcycle" clause as of 2005-2006. Two ~ New York Giants WR Plaxico Burress could be a sleeper; his accountant on the other hand should be drafted in the later rounds. Three ~ It took a while but they have finally erected a second statue of liberty! You'll be able to find her disguised as Drew Bledsoe throwing bombs for the once mighty Dallas Cowboys next season. Foot speed of a no-legged grasshopper equals career soon to be over, sorry Drew but somebody had to say it. WG

* Future Star will be returning next month...stay tuned & please continue forwarding your suggestions to wjcgreer@yahoo.ca

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Paris overwhelmingly the people's choice as 2012 Olympics host city

The majority of consumers in 38 countries give Paris the nod

While citizens in hopeful 2012 Olympic host cities London, Madrid, Moscow, New York and Paris hold their breath in anticipation of a July 6th Olympic Committee decision, a large number of the world's inhabitants have already made up their minds about which city they would prefer, and it's Paris, according to the findings of a global study conducted by ACNielsen.

According to the ACNielsen survey conducted with Internet users in 38 countries, the majority of the world's Internet population voted Paris as their Number 1 choice of host city for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

"The majority of respondents in 27 out of 38 markets surveyed chose Paris as their preferred host for the Olympic Games in 2012, followed by Madrid and London as their joint second," said Janice Jackson, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Communications, ACNielsen Canada.

And as far as second choice was concerned, Paris remained the most popular location for the majority in 27 of the 38 countries.

The online study was conducted by ACNielsen among more than 21,261 Internet users in 38 markets worldwide in early May.

Across the world's regions, Paris ranked Number 1 in Asia Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

In the case of Canada, the majority of respondents (501) surveyed chose New York (23%) as their preferred host for the Olympic Games in 2012. Second choice vote went to Paris followed by London.

The ACNielsen survey found that, quite naturally, patriotism and self-interest prevails when it comes to popular choice of host city.

Not surprisingly, 81 percent of French for voted Paris, 57 percent of Spanish voted for Madrid, 85 percent of Russians voted for Moscow, 68 percent of the British voted for London, and 44 percent of Americans supported New York's bid.

"Our survey found that among the citizens of the contending countries, the Russians were the most eager to host the 2012 Olympics on their own soil, closely followed by the French. The least keen to see the games on their own turf were the Americans," said Jackson.

"The Olympic Games presents a tremendous economic and tourism opportunity for any host city and being selected is considered global affirmation that the country and its infrastructure are capable of putting on such an international event," added Jackson. "Not to mention the dollars that pour into the event in the way of advertising and sponsorship dollars."

It's worth noting that across all 38 countries, one in six respondents thought none of the five cities should host the 2012 Olympic host city. This was felt most strongly in Latin America where one in five thought the 2012 Summer Olympics should be held somewhere else. By country, nearly half of the Turkish and a quarter of Thais, Poles and Chileans felt the same.

The ACNielsen worldwide survey is a regular syndicated online consumer study, gathering information from regular users of the Internet around the world on their attitudes and preferences, consumption of media, products and services across different markets.



Photo by Andrea Hillo

Police cruiser

Constable Mark Moore, one of the Bancroft OPP Marine operators was out for the day with Constable Bill Robertson from the OPP SAVE team. They are cruising the waterways in a new Sea-doo Jet Boat which I'm told has 2 - 500cc engines.

The Snowmobile All-Terrain Vessel Enforcement (S.A.V.E.) Team is a six-member unit based at the Frontenac Detachment, but is a resource for the entire Region and other parts of the province. They are seen at sporting and community events and on the recreational trails.

Just a reminder from the officers to ride safely and be responsible on the waterways this summer.



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Home

at the cottage

FEATURE

What's Cooking

with Mrs T

Hello! And what's cooking?

Cottage country is alive and cooking, people are here getting their cottages in full swing for the summer fun of cottage country.

It sure is great to be getting out in this, more like summer weather. The streets and walking paths are alive with people. meeting and greeting stopping to enjoy some lovely summer gardens, along the way.

Summer also means seeing friends from out of town too. As for the great city folks who work and live in the fast pace of the city, it's no wonder they pack it all up on Friday and rush to the cottage.

Those of us, fortunate enough to call cottage country home have all made some great friends, we only see on weekends.

A weekend at the cottage means BBQ's. Is there anything better than good friends, and a big BBQ. It can only lead to a good meal, and a great time spent with your friends and family.

Backyard grilling is were it's at! Less mess, fewer dishes, and husbands that turn into backyard chefs. Does it get any better then this?

So to all are backyard chefs, try this months BBQ recipes.

BEEF BURGER

1lb ground beef
2 tbsp bread crumbs
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1 tsp dried thyme
1 egg
1 shredded carrot

1/4 cup your favourite BBQ sauce

Preheat grill to medium-high.

Whisk egg, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, thyme, carrot and BBQ sauce together.

Add to ground beef, mix in well.

Divide meat mixture into 6 portions, form into patties. Place on hot grill, cook 12-15 minutes.

Flipping once through cooking process.

Serve with traditional toppings.

GARLIC-HERB PORTOBELLO CAPS

4 portobello mushrooms, about 1lb
2 slices whole grain bread
1/3 cup herb & garlic marinade
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
2 green onions chopped
1/4 cup red pepper finely diced
Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

Rip bread into coarse breadcrumbs. Toast in oven until golden brown.

Scoop out mushroom gills, brush top of mushroom cap with 1 tbs marinade.

Mix breadcrumbs with cheese, onions, pepper and leftover marinade.

Grill mushrooms gill side down, for 4 minutes.

Turn and fill with mixture, reduce heat to medium low, close lid and cook for about 10 minutes.

Here's a summer treat I found in Homemakers

NO-FAT STRAWBERRY RHUBARB JELLY

5 cups chopped rhubarb
3 cups sliced strawberries
2 strips (each 2 inches/5 cm) lemon rind
1 cup granulated sugar
3 pkg(each 7g) unflavoured gelatin

In large saucepan, bring rhubarb, strawberries, 4 cups (1L) water, lemon rind and sugar to boil over high heat. Reduce heat, cover and simmer about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in separate saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over 1/3 cup (75mL) water; let stand for 5 minutes.

Heat over low heat until gelatin is dissolved.

Strain rhubarb mixture through cheesecloth-lined sieve into gelatin mixture. Stir to combine.

Pour into 6-cup (1.5LL) jelly mould or divide evenly among 8 wine glasses.

Cover loosely and refrigerate until set, about 6 hours.

To un-mould, dip into warm water for a few seconds to loosen; invert onto platter.

Now for this months winning recipie:

CHILI & SKINS

2 tbsp olive oil
1lb lean ground beef
1/2 lb lean ground pork
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
1-2 small chilies, finely chopped
1 heaping tbsp ground cumin
1 tsp cayenne pepper (or to taste)
1 tbsp dried oregano
4 cans plum tomatoes
4 tbsp tomatoe paste
4 large baking potatoes
1/2 chopped fresh cilantro
1 cup light sour cream

Over medium high heat brown the meat with olive oil, pour off most of the fat. Add garlic, onions, chilies, cumin, oregano and cayenne and stir well. Cook for few minutes and add tomatoes and paste, bring to boil and then simmer for 1 hour.

Preheat oven or BBQ and bake potatoes for at least an hour. Let cool and cut the potatoes in half lengthwise, scoop out the flesh and add flesh to pot of chili, stirring it well.

Arrange skins on plate, stir cilantro into chili and scoop mixture into the potatoe skin. Top each with a little sour cream and serve!

Randy Holden
Oakville

This month's
winning recipe
5 Cupcake Rating



How it works:

Send us your recipe. If we choose your dish, we will put it through our test kitchen and given it a Cupcake Rating, (Out of 5) as well as feature your cooking in the next issue!

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Horoscopes

in the stars

FEATURE



Aries

The end of June seems to bring quiet moments and time to reflect. Take your break now as the following month brings plenty of movement and perhaps even travel. July 2 and 3rd are your days to shine.



Taurus

The bull in you is ready to move forward and past obstacles that have held you back. June 27th offers a financial reward you have waited for. The first week of July brings romance and a possible job advancement. Keep your cool July 11th.



Gemini

June 24th offers great news from an old friend, offer your support keep your opinions to yourself, your turn will come. July 2nd could bring an argument, take it easy and all will be fine. By July 7th a decision is made that benefits your financial position.



Cancer

June 22nd finds you feeling quite adventurous, try something new and feel revived. June 29th promises romance and a possible getaway weekend ahead. July begins with advancements in employment and July 6th should prove to be only the beginning of a great summer.



Leo

June 25th brings a new opportunity that has you thinking -how did that happen? By the 30th of June and July 1st your plan should be heading full steam ahead. Watch out for road blocks on July 12.



Virgo

The questions you have asked will be answered on June 23rd. It looks like things are going your way and it's about time. June 27th opens doors to a new job opportunity. Go for it! July brings a gust of vitality into your love life the heat's turning up starting July 4th. Watch your pocket book July 12.



Libra

Everything is for a reason and boy did you deserve this. June 25th is a winning day for you in the game of love. Take your time and by June 30th you will have your answer. Possibilities of travel are presented on July 8th, as long as you prepare for the trip everything looks good to go!



Scorpio

Get expert advice on June 20th and delegate regular tasks. Save your energy for June 26th for making a big decision quickly. June 27th through the first few weeks of July might be a good time to study especially where employment is involved.



Sagittarius

Partnership is a on going theme for you as June comes to an end. If you don't already have a sidekick June 29 just might present one. Begin July with financial consulting, you'll know why by July 8th and be more confident in your number crunching.



Capricorn

The summer kicks off a little early for you this year. June 18th finds you managing someone's dilemma, your help is rewarded by the end of the month. July 3rd and 6th find you in travel mode for even just the day. Take a break July 16th.



Aquarius

June 20th to the 24th is time to party first and work later, that's okay you deserve it. Your schedule becomes very demanding beginning July. You know what you want to do and on July 9th you are willing to seek it out. Past problems arise July 12 that only you can change.



Pisces

The mysteries of the early month bring answers June 27th. You can't wait to begin a creative project and July 2nd seems to be the day to begin. The first few weeks of July allow you the freedom to try new things. July 12 gather with friends to celebrate your good news.

A Green Shift

First Canada bio-plastic' cups

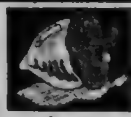
TORONTO - Canadian beer drinkers will soon be drinking their suds out of a cup that is 100% biodegradable, thanks to an initiative from Toronto's Steam Whistle Brewing and cup supplier, Green Shift. The new cups are a far cry from the standard in the disposable cup market, which are made from petroleum-based plastics, most commonly polystyrene. According to Jennifer Wright of Green Shift, an environmental consulting firm and supplier of environmental alternatives, poly-

styrene is a serious environmental hazard because it does not break down, is very difficult to recycle and is made with benzene (a known carcinogen). "This bio-plastic contains no petroleum, is made from 100 per cent renewable resources and takes about 48 days to break down in commercial compost," Wright said. "But even if many cups do end up in landfill, they will still break down and not be harming our environment."

The Good Beer Folks at Steam Whistle will be the first in Canada to embrace the sustainable cups on a large scale, an initiative Wright applauds for its support of small business and greater environmental preservation. The cups will be launched this summer onto patios, at outdoor events, and

wherever disposable cups are required.

Steam Whistle has a history of 'green thinking': the Brewery opted out of conventional heating/cooling systems, using instead Enwave's direct steam and deep water-cooling systems in manufacturing and for the brewery's climate control; the highly fuel-efficient smart car has been added to their service fleet; and the brewery's heavy green glass bottle enjoys at least twice the number of re-uses as the industry standard brown bottle. Cam Heaps, President of Steam Whistle, plans to continue to 'Green Shift' and says, "This bio-degradable beer cup will have a great environmental benefit as breweries use thousands of cups each year for outdoor events."



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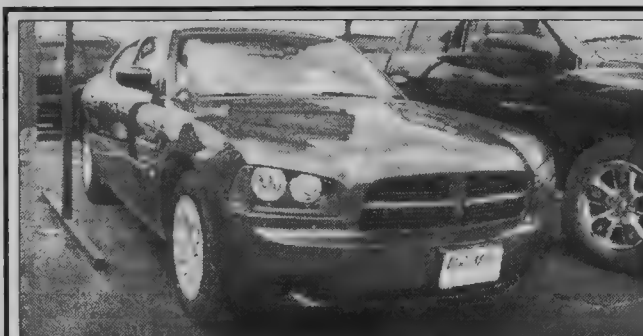
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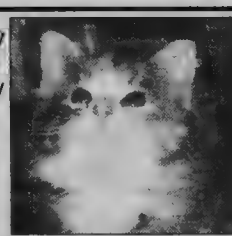


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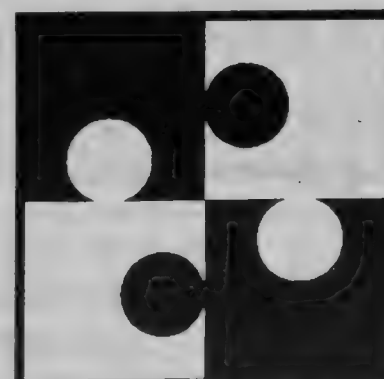
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Ontario wine awards

by Bill Young

Many of you by now will realize that my passion for Ontario wines is soundly based on the excellence of the wines produced over the last few years. It's clear that Ontario wines keep getting better and better, exhibiting increasing polish and purity thanks to the dedication and diligence of the regions growers and winemakers. The most dazzling examples are rich in fruit flavour, nicely concentrated and impeccably balanced. As each year passes the wines of Ontario are gaining more and more international recognition. Gradually the world is coming to realize that when it comes to making great wines Ontario can compete with the best.

The Ontario Wine Awards were founded in 1995 by Tony Aspler; one of Canada's most acclaimed wine writers. His vision was to catapult Ontario VQA wines into the most successful, most revered wines available to domestic and foreign markets by recognizing and promoting the top Ontario wineries for the quality product they produce. The vision began when Aspler approached Air Ontario in 1995 with the concept of a competition. Both the airline and the Ontario Wine Industry and the Air Ontario immediately embraced this idea - Ontario Wine Awards were born.

The tenth annual Ontario Wine Awards took place Friday April 29th at Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake celebrating the premium quality of local Ontario VQA wines. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded in 27 categories as judged by fourteen highly experienced tasters. This year the Winemaker of the Year Award went to Carlo Negri of Colio Estate Wines in recognition of his consistent, yet innovative, ability to produce quality wines from a broad spectrum of Ontario grown grapes. The most prestigious Meridian Credit Union Wine of the Year trophy was awarded to Reif Estate 2002 Vidal Icewine for receiving the highest aggregate score of the competition.

The 2005 competition drew a record breaking 443 entries in 27 categories which were evaluated blind by four panels of professional tasters. Commenting on the results, Tony Aspler, Founder and Executive Director of the awards said, "The gold, silver and bronze results from this year's Ontario Wine Awards emphasize the large number of Ontario wineries producing wines to the very highest standards in Ontario. From very small boutique to large commercial Ontario wineries, these results indicate a province wide commitment to the highest standards of wine production.

The entries increase each year at an astonishing rate, proving the dedication that local vintners have to producing world-class wines"

A complete list of this year's award winners is available at www.ontariowineawards.ca or www.tonyaspler.com.

For those of you interested in sampling some of these excellent wines the Distillery Fermenting Cellar in Toronto will play host to the consumer tasting event on June 16th. Hundreds of Ontario wine lovers will experience first-hand the best wines that Ontario has to offer and have the opportunity to meet the award winning winery principals. Well worth the drive for those of you with more than a passing interest in wines this evening event is open to the public where approximately 25-30 Ontario wineries will be there to showcase their award winning wines. It will be an evening of fabulous wine, food and entertainment. As well as the opportunity to sample some fine wines and meet some of Ontario's top winemakers this event offers the chance to see what many consider to be the most remarkable venue in Canada, The Distillery District. Founded in 1832 by Brother-in-law William Gooderham and James Worts, the Gooderham and Worts Distillery eventually became the largest distillery in the British Empire. Set on 13 acres in downtown Toronto, the forty plus buildings constitute the largest and best preserved collection of Victorian Industrial Architecture in North America and perhaps the world.

The Distillery is now a pedestrian-only village entirely dedicated to arts, culture and entertainment. Internationally acclaimed galleries, artists' studios and workshops, restaurants, bars and cafes, as well as live music, all form part of this new landmark cultural centre. In addition to the history, arts and culture, The Distillery has been the location for over 800 film and television productions in the past decade, including Chicago, X-Men, Against The Ropes and The Hurricane, making The Distillery District the most popular film location in Canada. I had the opportunity to attend a "Young Winemaker's" event their last year and found it to be the perfect venue for these types of events. If you are not able to attend this event they are also hosting the Craft Brewer's Festival as part of the Toronto Beer Festival on June 25th and 26th as well as many other exciting events through out the summer.

Bill Young



Photo by Andrea Hillo

We caught Giselle Howe red handed preparing a simply dee-licious meal at The new Paudash Lake Restaurant. You should try out the menu yourself, see page 20 for more details!

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Most distributors of bottled water in Canada do not pay for the water they extract from aquifers and publicly-funded water systems. Many of us have purchased a bottle of water thinking that we were paying for a pure product taken from an abundant source and packaged in a clean container. Maybe not, according to Tony Clarke, director of the Polaris Institute and author of *Inside the Bottle: An Exposé of the Bottled Water Industry*. Clarke says we may not only be supporting dubious social and environmental practices, but also contributing to the privatization of our public water systems.

In February 2005, the Polaris Institute brought together more than twenty "water warriors" on the banks of Lake Michigan to discuss regional issues and cross-border strategies concerning the bottled water industry. In a talk he delivered at that meeting, Clarke outlined what he sees as some of the key problems with privatized water management and distribution in Canada.

According to the Canadian Food Bureau, consumption of bottled water in Canada currently outpaces that of coffee, tea, apple juice, and milk. However, this wasn't always the case. As little as two decades ago, the industry was made up of a few local bottlers serving niche markets. Some estimate the bottled water industry's revenue growth at nearly 800 per cent in the past 20 years.

In the 1980s, Clarke says, European food giants Nestlé and Danone had expanded as far as they could in Europe and set their sights on North America, "so they came in and bought up a whole series of the more productive and expanding bottled water operations."

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, as bottled water sales skyrocketed and soft drinks were linked to health problems such as obesity, Pepsi and Coca-Cola realized that there was a foreseeable end to the soft drink boom. They looked to juices and bottled water as the way of the future. Their entry into the bottled water market, however, was easier than their European counterparts'.

"They didn't have to buy up bottled water companies. They already had their own bottling operations and their big bottling plants. It was a question of taking advantage of that infrastructure, moving on that and getting some kind of a foothold into the market," says Clarke.

That "foothold" was based on access to publicly built, maintained, and funded water systems, and the result is two of the best-selling brands of single-serve bottled water in North America: Aquafina and Dasani.

In the cases of Aquafina and Dasani, bottled water is no more than tap water taken from municipal supplies that is reprocessed and marked up for resale. To get an idea of how much this water is marked up, compare 1.5 litres of New York City tap water (often flaunted as some of the cleanest water in North America) and the same quantity of Dasani. New York tap rings in at about 1/100th of a penny. A bottle of Dasani, however, costs around \$1.20. A 1999

From the Tap to the Bottle and Back Again

A look at bottled water and privatization

by Leah Orr

Natural Resource Defence Council (NRDC) study titled *Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?* estimates that it costs "from 240 to over 10,000 times more per gallon to purchase bottled water than it does to purchase a gallon of average tap water."

Companies that use groundwater (or "spring water") have it a little harder than those who use municipal water, as they have to pay for drilling and infrastructure. However, they are not required to pay a fee or tax for extraction as they would for oil and gas.

One of the reasons for a 2003 moratorium on new water permits in Ontario is that the province does not have a system to determine how much water is being extracted and whether permitted extractions are damaging the system.

The situation in Alberta is similar, says Diana Gibson, Research Coordinator at the Parkland Institute. "Alberta does not have an accurate inventory of ground water aquifers, nor do we know the rate at which those are being tapped or replaced." A current Natural Resources Canada initiative to map 20% of key regional aquifers by 2006 indicates a shortage of information in all regions.

Though the CBWA claims that "bottled water is held to stringent standards for quality, identity and labelling," Clarke and other water activists are quick to point to the NRDC report. This four-year study tested more than 1,000 bottles of 103 brands of bottled water and concluded that "about one-third of the waters tested contained levels of contamination - including synthetic organic chemicals, bacteria, and arsenic," and that bottled water "is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water."

Add to this the environmental costs of manufacturing the components of plastic bottles, the bottles themselves, and what Clarke views as "the toxic chemicals and fossil fuel runoff of the biggest throw-away item there is," (plastic water bottles) and it seems water bottlers are getting away with more than price gouging.

All of this to transform water into... water.

The Dangers of Privatization

When Chrysler moved out, so did the tax base of Highland Park, Michigan, dropping the population

from 60,000 to 16,000, and leaving behind astronomical debts incurred by Chrysler and former residents. The state took the city into receivership, and through a series of business dealings, the city's water department was contracted out to CPI Engineering.

Highland Park is one of the poorest cities in the United States. Residents are also subject to one of the highest water rates in the nation. In 2003, over half of Highland Park's residents - many of them families with children and seniors - had been placed on shutoff status due to unpaid bills. Unpaid bills are added to property tax, and in many cases result in foreclosure on residents' homes. According to a June 2003 Earth First! media release, CPI employees were seen carrying firearms while shutting off people's water.

Public Citizen reports that in June 2004, while families were still being denied access to water, Highland Park City Council considered a proposed 10-year water management contract with Rothchild-Wright Group Inc. When it was revealed that the contract included an allowance for the company to bottle and sell water from the public reservoir, the proposal was hotly debated and ultimately rejected.

In Canada, privatization has not been an overwhelming success, either. Hamilton, Ontario, privatized its system in the mid-1990s. Since then, the city has had numerous raw sewage backups and floods. According to a CBC report, in 2003 even city councillors were confused as to who, exactly, was running their water service due to numerous shifts in ownership, including a stint with Enron-owned Azurix in 1999.

In Halifax, Suez subsidiary United Water insisted that taxpayers pay for future failures (such as chemical spills). As a result, the city cancelled a \$465 million contract in June 2003.

Water activists agree that there is a time and a place for bottled water. In times of crisis, such as drought or contamination, bottled water is crucial to sustain life. If, however, we come to rely upon bottled water as our sole source of hydration - as many people have - we risk losing a basic human right to life: clean water for all.

"While publicly operated water systems are managed to deliver clean, safe and affordable water to you and your family, privately operated systems are managed to get as much money as possible from you and your family," says Public Citizen. Clarke and the rest of the "water warriors" would likely extend that to the bottled water industry.

The Michigan meeting brought together many perspectives and presented many strategies for continued action on water issues. Many commonalities came to light, but the one resounding belief shared by all participants is perhaps best stated by the Sweetwater Alliance, a grassroots movement based in Michigan. "Fundamentally, we believe that life and the things that support it are sacred, and that it is vicious and wrong to exploit the needs of living things for private gain." www.dominionpaper.ca

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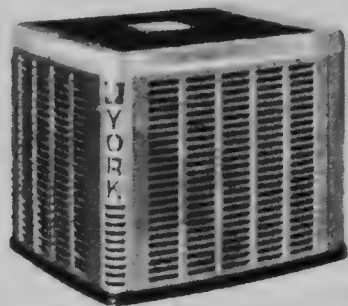
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Ladies of the Highlands

In this month's search for our Courier Cutie (see page 39) we also discovered the lovely ladies of the Highlands. This month Marlene Niles (photo left) celebrated a special birthday with friends and family in her lovely backyard near Harcourt. This party has prepared her for the next close by occasion which will be the celebration of her wedding anniversary.

Meanwhile in Kinmount we found Jen Picken and her gorgeous daughter Emma at Walsten Marine. Jen's family own and operate Walsten Marine and she is able to help run a successful business, sell you your dream boat and be mother to this little bundle of beauty. These women truly are Courier Cuties.

You see, we have this big rock on our south lawn which overlooks the hill down to the lake and the valley to the west where Johnnie's Creek comes out of the hills.

In early April, papa fox showed up, sunbathing on the rock. So we started feeding him - open-faced dog food sandwiches. We watched as he ate some and then carted the rest off to the east. We guessed he was taking food to mama back at the den. A few days later he changed direction to the south and we realized they had moved the den - something they do regularly to avoid attracting predators.

One day, he took one piece off to the den and then mama appeared to finish off the rest of the food on the rock. Obviously, he stayed home to look after the kits. Papa's coat is red; mama's is tawny with a shadow over her shoulders.

After several days of this, mama appeared while he was still on the rock. With her we could see at least two little ones in their light gray natal suits. At first, the babies stayed back with mama in the shrubbery but then one was brave enough to take a few steps onto the lawn, eventually coming to the base of the

Different strokes for different folks

by Peter Charters

Papa fox is on the rock

rock to receive some food from papa. This happened on several days. Then a third adult appeared with the family, obviously subordinate to mama and papa. Some frantic investigation of the literature revealed that occasionally an older offspring helps with the care of the babies. So, although most yearling foxes go off to establish their own territory and raise a family, once in a while one stays with the parents. Different strokes for different folks.

Watching this family in action got me thinking about families and marriage. The federal government is proposing to legalize gay marriage. When first announced, I reacted with horror. Marriage is between a man and a woman! The purpose is so they can have children! This is how the human race

survives and grows! But then I remembered a number of couples we know who have chosen to remain childless. So marriage is really about union with the one you love.

Then I started thinking about how this change would affect us. It wouldn't change our marriage. It wouldn't change anyone's marriage.

When we were young, divorce was difficult and degrading. Then the law was changed to permit easier and cleaner and fairer divorces. Predictions were made that this would destroy marriage. It didn't.

I don't understand homosexuality or gay marriage. But there are a lot of things I don't understand (such as Rock and Roll) that I accept. So why can't I accept gay marriage? When put that way, I guess I can; it will just take time to get used to the idea.

Papa fox still comes to the rock every day, sometimes with the older offspring. We haven't seen mama and the babies for a few days but the weather has been drizzly and cool. Papa takes food back to the den which has been moved again. It seems papa is a good father and mama is a good mother. As for the yearling? Different strokes for different folks.



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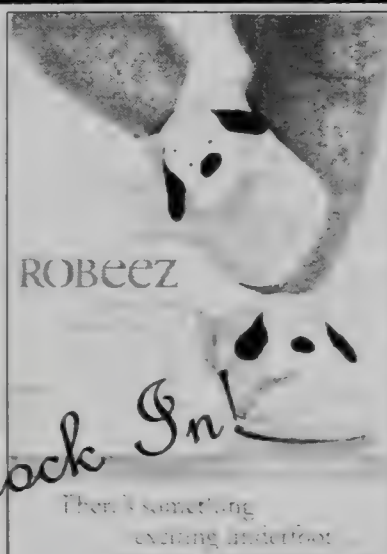
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Hundreds protest Canada's forest destruction at global forest summit

Hundreds of concerned citizens and activists from across Canada and the United States rallied recently outside the world's largest forest industry gathering to demand more forest protection and a shift to ecosystem-based logging practices for all of Canada's endangered forests and endangered species habitat.

Demonstrators, dressed as caribou, salmon and bears, highlighted the discrepancy between the summit's message of sustainability and the ongoing, widespread forest destruction occurring across Canada.

The Global Forest and Paper Summit drew 500 senior forest industry executives and government policy-makers from 17 countries to Vancouver with the goal of creating a 'vision' of sustainability for their industry.

"It is ironic that more than 20,000 acres across Canada, an area almost the size of Vancouver, will be logged during this three-day forest summit on sustainability," said Tzeporah Berman, ForestEthics's program director. "This summit is not about creating real change - it's a forum for the same empty talk we've been hearing for years."

In British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, five years of collaboration among industry, environmental organizations, First Nations and stakeholders resulted in one of the most innovative packages for forest protection ever presented, including protecting one-third of the region from logging and fully implement-

ing Ecosystem-Based Management. However, industry has yet to live up to its commitments and clearcutting continues.

"The forest industry endorsed a vision years ago and supported a solutions package for the Great Bear Rainforest, but as a result of government and industry inaction to date nothing has changed on the ground," said Amanda Carr, Greenpeace forest campaigner.

British Columbia is also presiding over the decimation of the endangered mountain caribou, of which only 1,670 remain (down from 2400 only eight years ago). Companies like West Fraser Timber, Tolko Industries and the British Columbia government's Timber Sales Program are cutting down the old growth forests on which these animals depend. The fate of caribou across Canada is threatened because of the increased logging of Canada's boreal forest.

"As the forest industry talks about 'vision' to enhance its public relations activities, more endangered species habitat is being destroyed," said Gwen Barlee, Western Canada Wilderness Committee policy director.

Meanwhile, the marketplace is changing. Major wood and paper customers like Staples and Home Depot have committed to stop buying wood that comes from ancient forests, old growth or endangered forests, and to purchase wood that is logged sustainably. CNW

Ontario strengthens forest industry

Up to \$350 Million in loan guarantees to stimulate new investment

The Ontario government is taking action to support the long-term viability of the Ontario forest sector and the communities that depend on it, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay announced recently.

"I am pleased to release the council's final report, and am confident it will help us with a long-term plan for our forest industry," said Ramsay. "We are taking a number of steps immediately to respond both to critical challenges facing the industry, such as wood supply and rising costs, and to a number of the council's recommendations."

The government will:

Provide up to \$350 million in loan guarantees to stimulate new investment in value-added manufacturing, improve energy efficiency and make better use of wood fibre. This could leverage as much as \$700 million in new investment.

Create a process for industry to maximize wood use and reduce costs by moving to multi-party shareholder Sustainable Forest Licences.

Streamline and expedite the approvals for forestry activities, and pursue the amalgamation of forest management units.

Recognize and work with a panel of council members to help monitor actions taken in response to the council's recommendations

"I appreciate the excellent work done by the council members," said Ramsay. "We will be reviewing and

analysing the report further and will respond with an action plan in the very near future. It is clear that some of the council's proposals will require further study or the involvement of other parties."

Ramsay also announced that the Forestry Futures Trust is providing \$4.6 million this

year to support science-

and information-

based projects

that will help provide

forest managers with the

tools they need to more effi-

ciently meet forest management

objectives, including improved

wood supply.

The council's 17 members include

representatives from the municipal

sector, labour, the forest industry

and First Nations. The council was

asked to develop recommendations

on the best way to strengthen and

diversify Ontario's forest-based

economy.

"I am pleased to release the council's final report, and am confident it will help us with a long-term plan for our forest industry," said Ramsay."

Life in the...

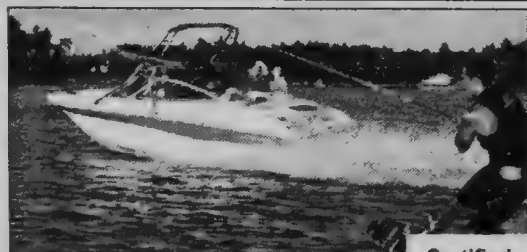
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Canadian Grand National Wild Turkey Calling Competition

The launch of the first annual "Canadian Grand National Wild Turkey Calling Competition" marks the rise of wild turkey hunting to the national level in Canada.

It's the newest calling event in North America, sanctioned by the National Wild Turkey Federation and supported by their local chapter, the "Timberline Strutters". The one-day competition will be held September 17, 2005 in Maynooth, Ontario, and will act as the feature event of the Maynooth Outdoor Show.

Timberline Strutters' President Chris Patty states, "Our chapter is proud to team-up with the North Hastings Wildlife Conservation Club in bringing this major event to Maynooth and the surrounding district". Recognized as a leader in wild turkey renewal and habitat development, it's only natural that the NWTF serves as the leading sanctioning body for wild turkey calling competitions. Whether you're an old pro or brand new to the recreation, everyone is encouraged to attend the first ever "Canadian Grand National Wild Turkey

Calling Competition".

The host organization is the North Hastings Wildlife Conservation Club (NHWCC) whose members are well known in their community for convening other successful outdoor conservation events. Their outdoor endeavours are many but this project's focus is promoting turkey hunting as a viable outdoor recreation in their area, hopefully to secure an eventual wild turkey release in the region. In addition to bringing turkey callers from all around Canada and the United States, the NHWCC expects many visitors to attend the Maynooth Outdoor Show. NHWCC Marketing Director Joe Rudkins says, "This will be a premier event the whole family can enjoy. The combination of the four competitions from Senior to Junior, the Outdoor Show and our beautiful surroundings will make for a great fall weekend."

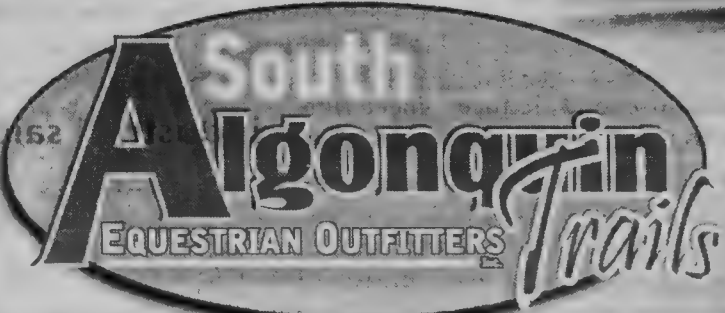
The NHWCC is based in the host community of Maynooth, Ontario nestled in the rolling hills of North Hastings. The autumn colour surrounded by pristine lakes and rivers will provide a striking backdrop for the competition. This small town

with a big Irish heart is ideally situated, just a short drive south of the famous Algonquin Provincial Park, the crowning jewel of Ontario's provincial parks.

All the cash prizes will be guaranteed and provided for by the NHWCC. There will be four competitions available to compete in, including the "Senior Open", "Canadian Resident", "Amateur Competition", and the "Junior Competition". Details with regards to calling rules and regulations can be obtained from the NWTF website (www.nwtf.org) or by contacting the North Hastings Wildlife Conservation Club. The Senior Open Champion, for example, will take home a cash prize of \$1000.00, a non-cash prize and a huge trophy, plus they will be eligible to compete in the 2006 American Wild Turkey Calling Championship in Nashville Tennessee. For more information on the event or to register as a competitor or exhibitor call club secretary Dave McLennan directly at 1-613-338-5651 or visit www.nhwcc.com

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West Guilford artist Brian Atyeo is the feature artist once again. He has donated an original acrylic painting titled Wildcat Lake to be auctioned to the highest bidder. The success of this event hinges on the support of local businesses and individuals who donate products, services and money. Anyone wishing to contribute is invited to contact any of the ticket sellers. Tickets are going fast. Get yours now to avoid disappointment.

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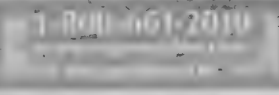
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Everyone knows someplace that is not there anymore. Think about it. Maybe it was a location that the family used to visit but years later it is just plain gone. Maybe it is a settlement that you passed on the highway. Years later it seems that there is no activity.

My friend Ron Brown has made a nice living writing about such places. Usually he calls them ghost towns but often they are less significant than that. Such gatherings were more likely hamlets, places where people lived in close proximity for a definite reason. When the source of employment or location changed, folks just moved on.

Many years ago I heard of a mine and its whole townsite which had been undisturbed for about 20 years. The place was called the Josephine and was located on the Algoma Central Railway line between Hawk Junction and what we know today as Wawa. There was no way into the place other than by a spur line and the rails had been torn up sometime after the war.

The name Josephine had been given to the iron mine which was the reason for the existence of the small place. Only in existence for maybe nine years, it had come into being due to the need for iron, a strategic mineral used in war production. There was a post office, company store, bunk houses, homes for the supervisors and the mine itself.

One day in 1943 just as the mine was getting into production the day shift had just come to surface. A fault took place below the lake on which the mine was located and the underground workings were flooded. The war was almost over and more, larger sources of iron were being discovered elsewhere. Some of the houses were cut in half and shipped out on the train. Some of the equipment was sold and moved out. The rest was left for years undisturbed.

When I walked along the tracks to the Josephine in 1961 a few scattered rotting ties along the tracks were the only clue as to where the spur line had been. After pushing through the thicket of young trees I saw the mine and its townsite. There were flowers growing wild in what had been gardens. An early thirties bulldozer loomed inside a big

Places that are gone now

I took a look at some maps not long ago and found several hamlets in the highlands which are largely gone now.

Some grew up as the colonization roads were built during the 1860 to 1870 period. Others came into being due to railway construction and quite a few owed their existence, like the Josephine, to mines which were once worked in the vicinity.

by Michael Barnes

shed. There was an old Chev truck just sitting, weather worn in the middle of a road.

In one of the buildings there were dozens of new shovels. The office vault door had been taken and the place was knee deep in cancelled cheques from the thirties and early forties. Test tubes still stood untouched in the assay office and the mine hoist looked ready to work again and bring up ore or men.

With the advent of snowmobiles the site became easily accessible. There was a fire in some of the buildings, much vandalism and the Josephine site is today just a memory. There are lots of places like that in rural Ontario. Do you know any in Hastings or Haliburton counties?

I took a look at some maps not long ago and

found several hamlets in the highlands which are largely gone now. Some grew up as the colonization roads were built during the 1860 to 1870 period. Others came into being due to railway construction and quite a few owed their existence, like the Josephine, to mines which were once worked in the vicinity.

One such place was Cheddar, not far from Cardiff. The place was first named Wood's Corners after the man who set up a general store and post office there in 1871. The location seemed promising because it was at the former junction of the Monck and Burleigh colonization roads.

There were small hard scrabble farms in the vicinity, some logging and road traffic. A blacksmith set up a forge, there was a small mill and, as homes were built, both Methodist and Anglican churches added vitality to the small community. In 1890 Mr. Wood lost the post office contract to a man name Southward and the newcomer arbitrarily changed the name to Cheddar after the town in England. At first it appeared that the new businessman had made an unwise move. The little farms, were being abandoned and road traffic was not busy enough to justify much in the way of local commerce.

Then early in the new century prospectors found scattered deposits of uranium in the area. One mine was built but soon failed. Another was then located a short walk from the hamlet. From 1932 to 1942 the Canadian Radium Corporation erected a small mine with a 150-ton mill. Houses were built and there was a store to service employees. But then richer deposits of the atomic energy material were found in Bancroft and Cardiff and the small community was doomed. Folks moved away to Wilberforce and Haliburton village and other places. The few remaining buildings crumbled over their dirt cellars, the mine was torn down and only one dilapidated house remained. Local road builders took waste rock from the former mine site and soon only a filled in shaft remained with some scattered scrap iron littered about. A bench once used by Cheddar people was moved and can be seen today at the United

continued on page 35

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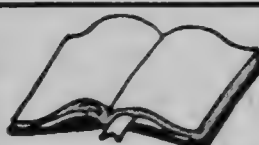
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continued from page 34

Church in south Wilberforce. Cheddar was forgotten for half a century. A highway sign still pointed to a place that no longer existed. Only hunters passed by on its rutted, stone pitted road. Then an adventuresome soul bought the 225 acre townsite and started to fix up the sole building, the former boarding house, store and post office. Certain that old ways were the best to go, the new owner tore out all modern conveniences in the house and restored it to the way it might have been in 1871.

So the place existed for a few years and someone said it was for sale again. A romantically inclined person could maybe buy the place. There are 225 acres of solitude to rule, a mine shaft, some depressions in the ground that might have once located houses and quite a bit of hard wood bush. There are a lot of such places around if one just looks. Some are situated at crossroads, maybe one to four houses left. Passers can recognize the clues as to location of former communities as there is often a highway sign, the homes and little else.

Those that are genuine 'ghost' places are becoming scarce now. You see, folks like to explore and take a few souvenirs. That is why few remnants remain of places which once thrived when the highlands were growing in their early years.

We should treasure these reminders of the pioneer past. Such early residents played their part in building the heritage we enjoy today.

Michael Barnes is an author living in Haliburton. Try his book *The Essential Haliburton - Discover Highland Ontario*, published by General Store Publishing House.

Operation Return to Sender

Seeds have contaminated both crops and the wider environment of the entire planet

Greenpeace, l'Union paysanne, the National Farmers Union and a representative of Japanese civil society called on delegates attending the Biosafety Protocol meetings in Montreal to adopt strict regulations in order to get companies that contaminate the environment and cause health problems with their Genetically Engineered (GE) to take full responsibility for their products.

In a written invitation to Environment Minister Stéphane Dion, the groups called on the minister to join them for the opening of the biosafety protocol meeting, for a Return to Sender activity in order to hand over to him Canadian GE canola found to be growing wild in Japan.

As predicted by several environmental, agricultural and social activist groups, since their introduction in 1996 GE seeds have contaminated both crops and the wider environment of the entire planet. In 25 countries on 5 continents, there have been more than 50 incidents of GE contamination, and this number only accounts for reported incidents. Illegal and unapproved GE contamination of seeds and crops has been recorded in maize in Mexico, rice in China, soya in Brazil, papaya in Thailand, oilseed in Europe, cotton in India, canola in Canada, and now, in the latest example of Canadian GE canola contamination in Japan.

"GMOs have been found growing in the fields of farmers who never asked for, nor ever wanted, GE

anywhere near their fields. Yet instead of compensation the farmers have found themselves forced by sharp lawyers and intimidation to pay the GE seed companies - for damage to the company's patent!" said Eric Darier, Greenpeace Canada GE campaigner.

"If the government does not act now to hold manufacturers and exporters liable for contamination then the dangers associated with GE contamination will only increase. It's only a matter of time," added Darier. "This inaction is why Greenpeace is demanding that negotiators at this meeting immediately establish a transitional system for liability as well as an emergency fund available to assist farmers affected by GE contamination, consumers and the environment."

"The case of Canadian GE canola contamination in Japan is further proof that the Canadian government is complicit with agri-biotech companies such as Monsanto. Canada has still not ratified the Biosafety Protocol. Worse still, Canada continues to do its utmost to undermine international efforts on biosafety issues," further added Darier. "Even if Minister Stéphane Dion refuses to collect the Canadian GE canola that was found growing wild in Japan, Greenpeace will ensure that the Canadian delegation attending the meetings does receive it. Operation Return to Sender has only just begun!"

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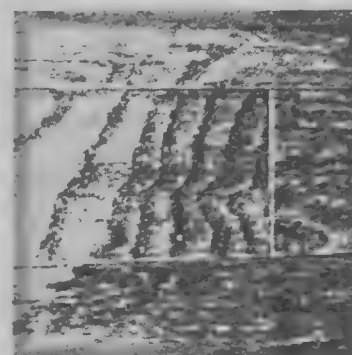
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Imagine you are sitting in your garden enjoying a summer barbecue with your family when suddenly armed soldiers break down your garden gate and start firing wildly-nilly. Your children scream in horror. The soldiers focus on your ten-year-old child. At gunpoint they beat her and leave her for dead.

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It happens. From Sudan to Sierra Leone, innocent people are being beat and murdered. Guns play a big part in such atrocities.

Who is the biggest military exporter in the world? Why, the United States, of course. Small arms are the most common weapons used by repressive government regimes and by criminals. The appeal by the Bush government for world peace is a joke: as far as arms manufacturers are concerned, peace is not good business.

A report issued late last month by the Arms Trade Resource Centre, part of the World Policy Institute, points out that, in 2003, the U.S. provided arms to 18 of 25 countries involved in conflict; of those, 13 were defined as undemocratic by the U.S. State Department's Human Rights Report. Often, U.S. weapons are used by both sides in a conflict (India and Pakistan) and at times, the U.S. military itself has had to deal with enemies who are using American-made weaponry against them (Afghanistan).

It should be noted that Canada's military arms record is no prize. For years we delivered arms to nasty regimes in Indonesia, allowing tyrants to blow up innocent folks with Canadian-made weapons. We sold \$2.5 billion in defense supplies to other countries in 2003. There are contractual relations between Canadian and U.S. suppliers that make estimates difficult. But we are small fry compared with the United States. The United States sold \$177.5 billion in arms to other countries between 1992 and 2003. In 2001, U.S. armed trans-

Make tea not war

By Peter R. Snell

fer agreements were over \$26 billion, and Bush has substantially raised that amount since then. Remember that many weapons purchasers live in countries in which millions of people are starving. It's not a lack of food that stops us from ending poverty. It's just that selling guns is more profitable. Also, of the 30 billion (very roughly) that the U.S. spends each year on research and development, little counts officially toward the military budget, so even the figures quoted are conservative.

Now, while many people may not know the exact numbers, the information above is not much of a surprise to even semi-informed folk. The statistics are readily available for anyone who cares to do a few hours research. So why do we tolerate it?

The first response is to say that "we" are not in the arms trade. Ask the suits who look so respectable with their corporate profile and their wonderful community-oriented activities. Why, I'm sure that if you put a dozen top military exporters in a room, you'd find a bunch of fine men and women with families, pet dogs and lovely children. They contribute to the Heart and Stroke Fund and even a few to the Sierra Club. Are the executives of

defense contractors such as Lockheed Martin Corp., or Boeing Corp. General Dynamics Co. or (I love this next euphemism) Health Net Inc. really such bad guys? (For Canadian companies, read CAE Inc., or General Dynamics Canada.) These companies support thousands of workers who are just regular middle-class folk.

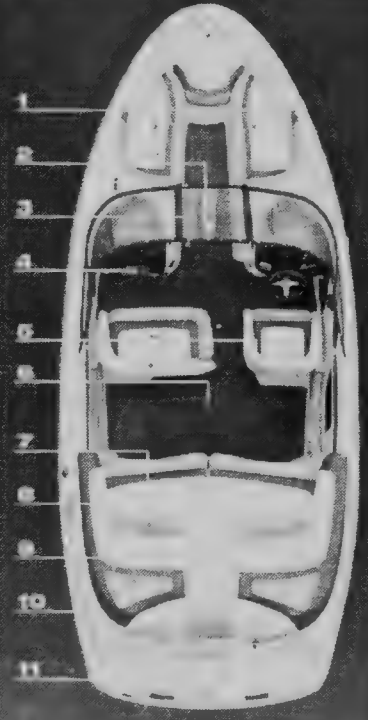
The top six military lobbyists in the U.S. in 2003 spent \$19 million pitching the government to keep the wars going and to keep the money pouring into their coffers. Lockheed Martin, the world's biggest defense contractor, spent \$420,000 in campaign contributions and 3.3 million in lobbying expenses, and got \$26.5 billion in return. Lockheed makes big stuff: jet fighters, communications satellites and missiles.

The second-biggest contractor, Northrop-Grumman, also spends lots on lobbying and campaign contributions. They're presently building an aircraft carrier. It's already \$22 million over budget and the U.S. government keeps coughing up the dough. The aircraft carrier will be named after George Bush senior. Very sweet.

Worldwide, over \$950 billion is spent annually worldwide on military expenditures. Meanwhile, the U.S. spends a pittance on international economic aid compared to defense funding.

So, enough. Let's agree that there's lots of money involved and all sorts of military gear. Along with it comes mandatory supporting propaganda, including lots of ads in strategic places indicating how the defense boys and their capital are responsible for keeping America together. Is the propaganda overwhelming? Are we collectively so stupid that we buy into this kind of rubbish? Or (more ominously) are we all too cognizant of the death and destruction we think is necessary to keep us happily supplied with swimming pools and SUVs? There's enough evidence around to indicate it's the

continued on page 37

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latter. Wilhelm Reich, for example, writing in the 1940s and after, thought that Germans and Italians didn't have fascism imposed upon them, they actually asked for it. In Italy in the 1920s, the middle class was frightened of the chaos workers were making, destroying factories and barricading themselves in the street in their discontent. Perhaps a good fascist leader would keep the factories producing, the workers in line and the middle class supplied with the consumer goods and the security necessary to their peace of mind and body. Fast forward to post 9/11: perhaps American citizens actually want a despot to lead them. It's not ideal, but if that's what it takes to keep the money coming in, the good life happening and the infidel from the door, then perhaps that's what we'll have to put up with.

This kind of thinking is supported by such right-wing philosophers as Garrett Hardin, who is famous among undergraduate philosophy students for his "lifeboat theory" regarding the distribution of resources. It goes like this: imagine rich West countries as lifeboats awash in a sea of drowning Third World people. The lifeboats have a limited capacity. Just to survive it is our job to beat off the drowning folk; if they manage to get aboard, they will sink us all. If you are a bleeding heart who feels guilty about your privileged position, get over it. "The reply to this is simple," says Hardin, "Get out and yield your place to others."

To maintain superiority in the western world, Hardin suggests that some aspects of democracy may have to go, and a "restriction of the usual democratic franchise would be appropriate" in, for example, restricting birthrights to immigrants in

return for tasting some of the opulence of the west. This argument allows the selfish a moral base: if we don't protect our assets, the whole world will sink to the level of some awful, overcrowded Asian slum. Again, this is rubbish. Even the proponents know it in their heart of hearts. There is enough on this lush planet for everyone if we just did like our kindergarten teachers advocated: share. The poor in India

could live healthy, productive lives if they did not have what is rightfully theirs taken from them. The poor, as another philosopher has aptly said are "close to the grass;" they could live happily and healthily if the means to do so were not ripped from them.

American citizens (and we, their affable Canadian neighbours) need to look closely at what we really want. If we've come to believe our culture has to be built upon despotism, the abrogation of human rights (both our own and others) and racism, then we need to look at how and why our desires and hopes are being distorted.

Giving local despots guns and castles is a familiar colonial tactic. With the guns they can, from the walls of their castles control the people. From the walls of

There is enough on this lush planet for everyone if we just did like our kindergarten teachers advocated: share.

Washington, Bush and Co. can control his people, both here and abroad. To the extent that we, the middle class of North America, believe that we live within the walls looking out at the heathen hordes (or within the lifeboats, whatever metaphor suits), we will demand that our captain take control and protect us from disaster.

Only when we understand that we have more in common with the "drowning masses" and hopefully before the guns are finally turned upon us to make us conform, will we see that there might be another way.

Peter R. Snell



photo by Andrea Hill

The grade 10 academic science class at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School are studying Ecology and this particular week the students are focussing on aquatic organisms. Their task was to perform an Inventory of Head Lake. Students had fun the whole week using chest waders, rubber boots and nets to catch insects and fish. Part of the students' assignment will be to classify all of the organisms found and describe the niche of each organism. This in turn will help monitor the Head Lake ecosystem and ensure it will provide years of hands on activities for the students at HHSS.

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Dan the city guy

Paradise has finally arrived. Or for those that have forgotten, the month of June. Paradise is not a place. It is a season. And that season is now. For many, this is the time we have all been waiting for. The days are sunny, warm and longer. Layers of clothes are shed to expose our bleached skin to the tanning effects of the sun. It is a time for barefoot walks on the beach. The patios are filled to capacity as restaurants cash in from those that enjoy a cold beer and lunch outside. It is time to head to our cottage, campground, or trailer. For some, paradise can be as close as walking out to their backyard, with the smell of homemade burgers on the grill.

But wait a minute? There may be trouble in paradise. Do we not still have to get up early for work? And what do we do with the kids once school is closed? And where do we get all the extra cash needed to enjoy this paradise? It can be a daunting task to juggle work concurrently with all the activities your kids or going to demand from you. Perhaps some of the teenagers can find their own fun without you, but for those with young kids, it can be a traumatic daily event. Perhaps paradise is reserved for the full-time stay at home parent? Surely at least they will enjoy the dog days of summer? But think again (especially the male species). With a child glued to the hips, gone will be the days when that parent can snatch an hour of peace and

relaxation between doing the laundry and cooking the evening's supper. With summer, those chores will still be there. But to add to your Garden of Eden existence you must add the barrage of requests such as "mom, can we go (place anywhere here?)" or "mom, can I have some friends over?" (or what is commonly referred to as "can my friends come over and destroy your house?").

Summer can be fun-filled days that promote bonding between families. They are a time to renew friendships on our back deck. They are times we reacquaint ourselves with our neighbors. But paradise? We blast our air-conditioners and complain about the excessive heat. The pollution and the pollen compel many of us to endure the summer sneezing and coughing. By the end of August some families are undoubtedly crossing the days off the calendar until the first day of school. Yes, there is always a price to pay to live in paradise.

But once winter blasts it way back and you are once again imprisoned in your home, you forget about all the bad things about the summer. We can overcome the barriers we face.

In the end, we realize they are merely minor inconveniences when compared to the benefits of summer. So sit back and relax. But most importantly, enjoy! Because as inevitable as leaves falling every autumn, we will reminisce about the previous summer and fondly remember that it truly was paradise after all. Enjoy summer everyone.

Danny Andru

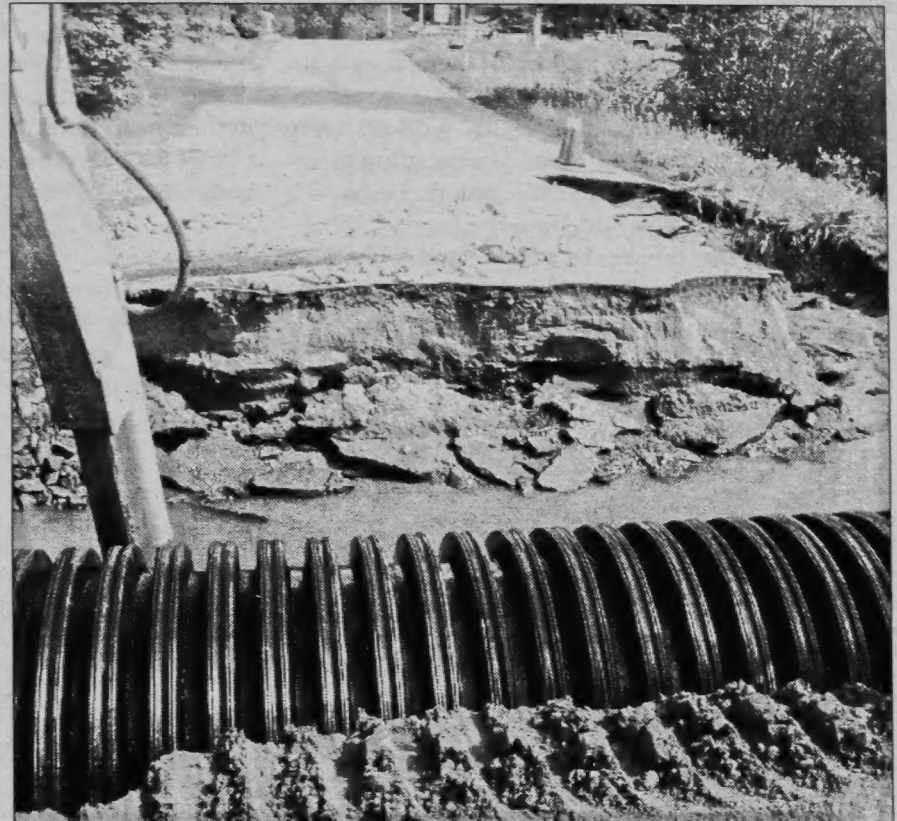


Photo & outline by Jerry Grozelle

Minden weather watcher Phil Graham, who records the Minden weather for Environment Canada, said 2 1/2 inches of rain fell between 8 p.m. Monday, June 13 and 5 a.m. Tuesday, June 14. That, according to his records, is the most rainfall in that amount of time since Hurricane Hazel struck the area in October of 1954. The huge volume of rain caused considerable flooding damage across Haliburton County. One example is the Donald Road (above) which was completely washed out near the junction of Haliburton County Road 1. The County's road crew worked into the evening Tuesday to install a new culvert and make the road passable.

Time To Open The Windows

Whoops! Bad Idea?

Opening the windows is different in the country than it is in the city. Way different. In both cases though, it brings with it a feeling of freedom. Freedom from living in a cave. Freedom from suffocating. Freedom to throw open your arms and proclaim your love of life. Yes, spring has awakened and awakened in us our need to immerse ourselves in ALL THAT IS on this beautiful earth. For the first time in eight months we can take the same deep, enduring breaths indoors as we do outdoors. This time we're not inhaling stale, stagnant indoor air. At least, not in the country.

In the city, I threw open my windows proclaiming a new dawn, excited about being a part of it all. I deeply inhaled for one of those welcome spring breaths, but got FUMES. Yech. A truck had been idling its engines under my apartment window for probably a good 10 minutes. Shut the windows. So I tried again a little while later. What did I find? Someone yelling at their kid. Eventually the angry voice faded away. The remainder of the day was uneventful and relatively quiet until the bar across the street got cranking and then the noise was deafening and then the drunks did what drunks do best. Shut the windows. Instead of fresh air we get a slice of life here in our urban paradise. At my cottage in the country, I throw them windows open with the same reckless abandon. FREE AGAIN! Oh, man. The next-door neighbour is mowing his lawn with the blue smoke-spewing lawnmower and it's coming this way. Help! The noise is deafening. Shut the window. A little later I opened the window again. A baby is crying but that too, soon fades. And so it goes, the rest of the day is uneventful and relatively quiet until the party across the lake gets cranking and the noise was echoing all around the lake and then the drunks did what

drunks do best. Shut the windows. Instead of fresh air, we get to inhale the long, dark winter's accumulated mold.

Where does a body go to get fresh air and quiet? Let's see. Nowhere? It can't be. There have GOT to be places where people are considerate of each other's needs to enjoy peace. Where can we go where loud mouth bores can't destroy the solitude of what should be our time to be with ourselves and The Great Spirit? With our planet filling up at a dizzying pace, where can we go to commune with Mother Nature?

We now find ourselves rubbing shoulders with our fellow planetarians wherever we go. Is it possible to live so close to others and still experience a sense of freedom? A wise person once said to me that the earth is, in fact, equipped to tolerate many more people inhabiting it. I asked how this was so. He said that if everyone gave up his selfishness, then the earth could securely cradle us in her bosom.

Think about it. What problem doesn't have its origins in selfishness? When we function from selfishness, we really forget that the essence of life is to be free to care for others. It is to contribute to the growth of others and to our own growth. When we abandon ourselves to that constrictive vice of selfishness, we are withdrawing from our true calling. Our muscles seize up and our mind closes down. Selflessness feels infinitely better than selfishness, and besides it opens the windows of our souls. It is all about our freedom, not to be selfish, but to be free from selfishness. Sometimes living in the country is not so different from living in the city. Wait, do I smell the sweet aroma of bread cooking? Are those birds singing? Open the windows.

Kathy Callahan

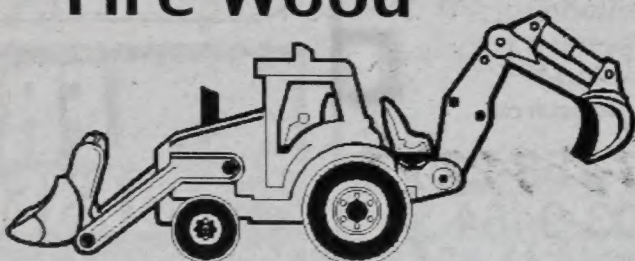
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Photo by Andrea Hillo

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Where's Clarence?

Every little town has its local character. Clarence is ours. Everyone knows Clarence and most people waved to him as they passed by his little house on Vinegar Hill.

Country Good Times has been Clarence's favourite local event. He loved to walk in the parade and play his guitar in the amateur talent contest. He even won a prize most times because his heart was in his singing even if he was not the best on the block.

Clarence could be seen walking to Haliburton and back without any effort at all. He has been seen

looking for bottles by the roadside for extra cash. Sometimes he had a vehicle sometimes not. In his day, I've been told, he was a very hard working person and certainly had no problem doing his share. He was quite the ladies man also, if you listen to other tales told by locals.

Where is Clarence now, you ask? He can be found at Extendicare in Haliburton sitting by the front door, wearing a badge which declares him "Door Watcher". He greets me each time I visit other folk and passes a friendly word.

His property on the hill looks somehow sad and

empty even though it has never been tidier. But something is definitely missing. CLARENCE doesn't live there anymore.

How he came to be at Extendicare is a question on many people's minds. However he got there and for whatever reasons, he seems to be adjusting to his new life there. He walks uptown to visit but always returns for his next meal. What man doesn't like to have someone to cook for him and girls (nurses) to fuss over him and a nice clean room in which to put his head down at night.

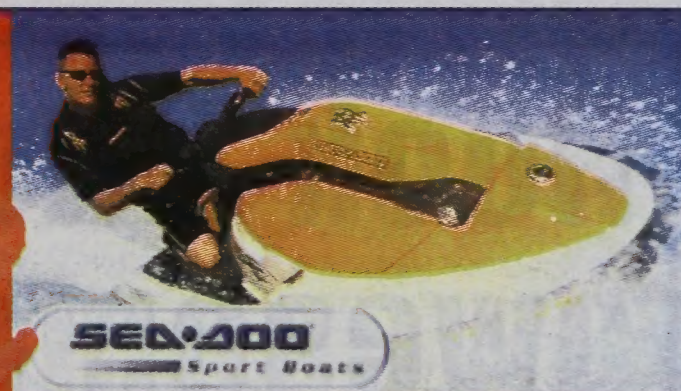
Say hello to Clarence next time you go to visit someone at Extendicare, we're sure he'd appreciate it. You may find it hard to recognize him, as he is no longer in his "Johnny Cash" outfit, but is sporting, trousers, a shirt, a badge, and a nice smile.

by Jan Simon

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